Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-036 *22 February 1990*

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Cuba

Havana Notes 'True Goal' of U.S. Radar Network

FL2102190690 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The U.S. Government has deployed an extensive and sophisticated espionage network and is keeping track of the Caribbean sea and airspace using radars with the facade of fighting drugs. The monitoring equipment is installed in Panama, Honduras, Guantanamo Naval Base, Puerto Rico, and Key West, Florida. Two more radar stations will be installed in Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

According to Pentagon officials, the goal of the Caribbean Basin radar network is to detect and follow the path of vessels and low-flying aircraft. Washington political and military observers could not help but hint that, considering the places where the radars are located, the true goal appears to be the systematic check of any movement of Cuban aircraft or vessels inasmuch our island is in the center of the espionage equipment.

U.S. media such as the NBC television network recalled that the United States is gathering, also under the veil of the fight against drugs, in the Caribbean and nearby U.S. ports a good number of warships such as the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy. THE WASHINGTON TIMES, a daily published in the U.S. capital, reported that the Kennedy will leave Norfolk, Virginia, next April and will head to the Caribbean and place itself very close to the Colombian coasts.

For its part, Spanish news agency EFE cited recent remarks made by U.S. linguist Noam Chomsky, who said the war against drugs has replaced the cold war as an instrument of social control and to justify before the public opinion Washington's operations in the Third World such as the Panama invasion.

Raul Castro Meets Vietnamese Defense Minister

FL2102155290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has received—at the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces headquarters—the delegation led by Army General Le Duc Ahn, minister of defense of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, who has been visiting us since 19 February.

Le Duc Ahn, who is also a member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Politburo, was given a detailed explanation of Cuba's preparations for defense. Other topics of bilateral interest were also discussed. During the friendly official working visit, which will last until 26 February, the delegation will tour military units, provincial and municipal general staff headquarters, defense zones, educational institutions, and places of historic interest.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Official Comments on Area Foreign Debt

FL2002195890 Bridgetown CANA in English 1923 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Report by Mark Lee]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 20, CANA—The debt burden of some Caribbean states being a barrier to regional economic integration is "largely psychological," says director of economics and industry at the Caribbean Community (Caricom) secretariat, Byron Blake.

"It is true that in the Caribbean whichever country is doing relatively well at a particular time always feels that the others are pulling them down," Blake said during a news conference Tuesday [20 February].

Some economists say the debt burden of Jamaica and Guyana in particular does not make it feasible to integrate their economies with others in the Caricom, because it will place a burden on the other nations.

Caricom nations have a foreign debt of about $10 billion, with the largest chunks held by Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

However, he explained, the strategy for regional integration is really to try to "strengthen the weakest link."

Blake, who is here promoting a regional economic conference tentatively set for November in Trinidad to plan a new thrust and direction, said the mobilisation of savings across national boundaries might have to be considered part of the aim of harnessing regional productive resources.

"Mobilising savings will have to be across boundaries... National savings will not be enough," he said.

Addressing the role of the Caribbean Development Bank in the process, Blake said it might be that the institution will have to look more to external resource mobilisation.

On the question of whether regional governments are serious about regional economic integration, he said that "should be put to the test and see how it falls out."

He said the momentum generated by the proposal by Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R Robinson to hold the economic conference had not dissipated even though he is not entirely satisfied with the pace of preparations so far.

Blake said there had not been much feedback from the national forums which began last September but the

conference and its related issues were on the agendas of several organisations which were co-opted for the November Confab.

Three regional consultations are scheduled to deal with matters to be on the final agenda.

A human resource devalopment and technology meeting is tentatively set for Barbados in March or April; one on international political and economic issues is planned for St. Lucia in May; and a meeting on the sustainability of development is to be held in Jamaica at the end of May.

The planning committee for the final conference is made up of representatives of the private sector through the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce, the labour movement through the Caribbean Congress of Labour, the Caribbean Employers Confederation, non-government organisations, the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Development Bank, governments and regional development bodies including the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

Among the issues to be looked at are the likely impact of global changes on the Caribbean economy; whether the Caribbean should be going forward as a region; how to mobilise productive resources; technology and technology policies; trade policies and infrastructural development.

Bahamas

Governments To Discuss Haitian Illegal Immigrants

FL2102184790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1743 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Nassau, the Bahamas, Feb 21, CANA—Officials of the Governments of the Bahamas and Haiti prepared for talks in Nassau Wednesday [21 February] on a persisting problem of Haitians entering the Bahamas illegally. The Foreign Ministry here said the discussions would continue Thursday [22 February].

The talks will centre on improving arrangements for the effective control and monitoring of the movement of Haitian illegal immigrants between the two countries and the facilitation of regular, orderly repatriation of such immigrants as provided for under the Bahamas Haiti Immigration Treaty of 1985, the ministry reported.

Grenada

Gairy To Lead Labor Party in 13 March Elections

FL2102191790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1812 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Report by George Worme]

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Feb 21, CANA—Former Grenada prime minister, Sir Eric Gairy, said on Wednesday [21 February] that he would be leading his labour party into the March 13 general election. Gairy told CANA that he would be a candidate of the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) in the St. George's south constituency, where the seat is held by small businessman Phinsley St. Louis of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC).

"I am running," said Gairy, the flamboyant and sometimes eccentric former prime minister ousted in a 1979 leftist coup. There has been speculation here that because of problems with his eyesight—Gairy is virtually blind—he might not run in the elections. Gairy, however, hoped to get back his sight soon and would be among the 15 GULP candidates come nomination day, Friday.

Gairy said that if he did not contest the poll he would be letting down a number of party supporters. "If I am not a candidate, the people would want to kill me," he remarked. "The people also feel that they have gone through so much bad times that they need somebody like me that can really put Grenada back together again," he said.

Sir Eric did not contest the last elections in 1984 in which his party managed to win only one seat although capturing 33 percent of the popular votes. Gairy also disclosed the names of the other 14 GULP candidates among whom are five newcomers.

The list includes medical doctors Lawrence Gibbs and Michael Radix, barrister Jerry Seales, proprietor Vincent Clyne, and small businessman Joseph Mc Guire, a cousin of Education Minister George Mc Guire.

Gibbs will be running in the constituency of St. Andrew's north east; Radix, St. George's north east; Seales, St. George's north west; Clyne in St. David's; and Mc Guire, St. Andrew's south west.

The other GULP candidates named are educators Dr. Wellington Friday and Winnifred Strachan, agriculturalists Winston Frederick and Basanto Fletcher, former Deputy Prime Minister Herbert Preudhomme, ex-Agriculture Minister Albert Forsythe, former parliamentary secretary Norman de Souza, and businessmen Edzel Thomas and Bonfield Bristol.

Friday is down to contest the St. Patrick's west constituency seat; Frederick, St. Patrick's east; Fletcher, St. Andrew's north west; Strachan, St. Andrew's south east; De Souza, St. George's south east; Preudhomme, St. George's Town; Thomas, St. John's; Forsythe, St. Mark's; and Bristol, Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

Gairy said he was confident of winning his seat. Before he was toppled from power, Gairy had been the St. George's south parliamentary representative since the early 1970's. Gairy also brushed aside reports in some quarters that the NDC and not the GULP would win the elections. He said his party could take 13 of the 15 seats at stake.

"Actually in 1972, we won 13 out of 15 seats in the first instance and subsequently won 14 seats when one of the opposition members resigned, and we have grown stronger and stronger and today we are much better off than we were in 1972," he said.

Haiti

Avril To Accept Observers But Not 'Meddling'

FL2102151790 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1600 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, paid the members of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] a visit this morning. [passage omitted]

[Reporter Bolivar, in Creole] At approximately 1100 Gen. Avril, accompanied by several members of the Haitian Armed Forces, went to the CEP offices on Pavee Street, where he met with all nine CEP members.

CEP President Dr. Louis Antoine Auguste said this visit is a comfort, allowing Gen. Avril to be informed about all the difficulties the CEP is confronting and to try to find a solution. Dr. Auguste further said that for the CEP to accomplish the mission the nation has entrusted to it, it must solve its material problems, then everything must be set in place so the CEP can function normally.

President Avril said he had come to see how the CEP was doing and to find out what infrastructure problems the CEP is encountering. Gen. Avril said his visit to the CEP constitutes indispensable support so the CEP can accomplish its historic mission, for this is our third try.

The first CEP, under the National Government Council, did not produce the expected results. There was a second CEP, headed by lawyer Jean Gilbert. And this is the third CEP, which is here to hold elections in 1990. Should this third CEP fail, said the general, one could say the Haitian people are luckless and the system deserves to be chucked. The president then said he asked each CEP member to set aside all personal opinions so the CEP's work may progress. [passage omitted]

Gen. Avril said: I know the CEP has many problems, such as lack of material things, and very widespread bureaus with no equipment. I am visiting a very poor CEP. Gen. Avril said the CEP members are working hard to see if they can come up with valid results that are to the satisfaction of the Haitian people, and that they deserve to be encouraged in this large, difficult task.

The president recalled the speech he made on 25 April 1989 when he installed the members of the CEP, a speech in which he reminded them of the noble mission being entrusted to them. The general said it was among the most prestigious of tasks, but also among the most difficult. He asked them to struggle to resist any and all pressure and criticism regardless of what sector such pressure or criticism came from. The general said he himself believes in the system of representative democracy. He also said that he has noticed that the CEP members are concerned with obtaining opinions from the entire population of Haiti.

In conclusion, he recalled the CEP's mission and the initiatives they are taking with a view to implanting an irreversible democracy in Haiti. The CEP has worked in a manner totally independent from the executive branch of the government. The executive branch of the government has had nothing to do with the work of the CEP. However, this does not mean the CEP shunted aside the executive branch of the government totally, as if to do everything itself just because it is independent. In any case, said the general, the CEP is totally independent in organizing the coming elections in Haiti. It need take no orders from any authorities in Haiti whatsoever, for it is working at the bidding of the Haitian people.

After the general's speech, certain CEP members asked him some questions regarding security. The general said he had met with the army general staff and had issued orders that the security of the Haitian people be ensured, as well as the nation's territorial integrity and the security of the voters and all the political parties and groups that are going to participate in the coming elections. Thus, the president reiterated his willingness to fully ensure the security of citizens during the elections. He also agreed to have foreign observers monitor the coming elections in Haiti; however, he will not accept meddling.

Those were the statements made by Gen. Prosper Avril during the visit he made at approximately 1100 this morning to the offices of the CEP on Pavee Street. Gen. Avril then visited Cohom [Commissariat for Overseas Haitians], where he met with the head of Cohom, Professor Daniel Narcisse, with whom he discussed the problems they are confronting and how hard Cohom is working. [passage omitted]

Gen. Avril Insists Voters Will be Safe

FL2102190190 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, and Justice Minister Augustin Romain Ceme visited the members of the Permanent Electoral Council's [CEP] management council yesterday at their Pavee Street headquarters. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Avril, in French] I [words indistinct] CEP's work and noted it is doing its best to make concrete this dream so dear to the Haitian people of implanting democracy here in this country. The council has worked in complete independence from the executive branch of the government. The executive branch did not recommend a single CEP member. It did not participate in any way in the setting up of CEP's bureaus—out of respect for the law and the decree that is the basis for

CEP's creation, which consecrates CEP's total independence, as the Constitution establishes. The Constitution says CEP is to work in a completely independent manner.

When the Constitution speaks of CEP's independence, it does not mean CEP's independence from the executive branch of the government, as certain people tend to believe. What it means is that the executive branch of the government is not to issue any orders to CEP as to how it is to do its work. Of course, it is a state institution and must respect the rules, the administrative norms, of this country. But the executive branch does not have the right to order it around—nor does any other authority, be it public, private, national, or international. CEP must do the bidding of the Haitian people. It is the Haitian people who should determine how this country's leaders behave. That is what we ourselves want to implant in this country. [end recording]

After Gen. Avril's speech, CEP members asked him questions concerning different problems they are encountering in their work. In answer to a question by a CEP member regarding the security of those who are going to vote, President Avril said—quote: I have issued proper instructions to the members of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] to ensure the security of the voters, the candidates, the Haitian people, and the nation's territorial integrity during the coming elections. [passage omitted]

Here is Gen. Avril again:

[Avril, in French] We arranged a meeting between the FADH high command and CEP. These instructions still stand. In fact, that is our principal mission: to provide security for the Haitian people in general and to protect Haiti's territorial integrity. Regarding the unfolding of the electoral process, all the necessary measures will be taken so the population can express their choice in complete security. Thus, I reiterate, and reiterate, and reiterate again to the electoral council this willingness on the part of the government to ensure fully the security of citizens during the elections. All the necessary measures to do so will be taken.

[Dr. Louis Antoine Auguste, CEP president] As for the CEP members, after our meeting with the FADH general staff, we undertook our tours of Haiti's nine geographical departments to hold consultations that were to result in the electoral calendar. Everywhere we went we saw that the FADH had taken all necessary measures to guarantee the security of CEP members. [end recording] [passage omitted]

CEP Treasurer Proposes Election Dates Change

FL2102171990 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] One day before [as heard] General Avril's visit to CEP [Permanent Electoral Council] members at their headquarters on Pavee Street, Dr. Jacques J. Jovin, CEP treasurer and representative of the Protestant churches, said in a statement to the press that the nation's political situation requires CEP to be level-headed and exercise good judgment in the actions it is going to be taking very soon. Consequently, he personally proposes to his CEP colleagues that they modify the electoral calendar and hold elections for deputies and senators next May and the presidential election in July. The deputies and senators, says Dr. Jovin, would then be sworn in in June and the president in September 1990. Elections for administrative councils for the Communal Sections [Casec] and municipal elections could be held after the presidential election, says Dr. Jovin in his statement.

We will read this statement for you:

It is with great difficulty that CEP reached a consensus, with many sectors finally accepting an election calendar. Unfortunately, the nation's political situation then deteriorated, and these same sectors that had agreed to the said calendar have today changed their minds. In view of the situation, CEP must remain level-headed, for it has already seen many bad experiences occur. The position it is taking today comes after much reflection and is a very flexible position. However, I myself, in view of this difficult situation, would like to submit to the Haitian people my own personal opinion.

First, we do not think extremist positions can unblock the situation. There is still a chance for us to reach another consensus. Second, we propose there be a change in the election calendar.

We propose that: legislative elections for deputies and senators be held next May, the deputies and senators take the oath of office in June, presidential elections be held in July, the president-elect take the oath of office in September, elections for Casecs and magistrates be held after the president is installed, and the elections be held in full security in the presence of both national and foreign observers.

Regarding the last point, we remind listeners that the president of the military government assured during yesterday morning's meeting with CEP members that foreign observers could follow the unfolding of the elections in Haiti, as they do in all other countries—UN or OAS delegations. Gen. Avril said there would be many tourists coming to Haiti, and nothing could prevent them from seeing how elections were held—as observers! He would not accept any foreign observer's meddling in what goes on in Haiti, for the Haitian people are independent at home, and only the Haitian people have a right to control what goes on in Haiti. That is what Gen. Avril said yesterday morning [20 February] during the meeting he had with the CEP members its headquarters on Pavee Street.

CEP Treasurer Dr. Jacques J. Jovin said that if the leaders and the Haitian people accepted his proposals, he would immediately, without delay, submit them to the CEP management council for study. If we all, the Haitian

people, get together to save democracy in Haiti, it is not too late to go down in history as great, said Dr. Jovin to the press.

PUND Proposes Post-Election Role for Army

FL2102153590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The Party of National Unity for Development [PUND], whose president is Dr. Wisler Pierre-Louis, makes some brief proposals following a quick review of the political history of the Haitian people in general and of the period 1986-89 in particular. The PUND's executive committee says that to save Haiti from a bloodbath and an unspeakable coup d'etat after the elections of next October and November, we must set up a government in Haiti that will take all the following factors into account: first, the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]; second, the Duvalierist sector; third, the opposition; and fourth, the nation's neutral sectors.

Considering this reality, the PUND proposes that everyone first acknowledge the essential place of the FADH in the national political structure; second, allow the active participation of forces of the former regime that wish to work to establish democracy in Haiti; and third, invite neutral forces to participate in the government for the collective well-being—forces such as the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, the human rights organizations, the press, the student class, the unions, and the merchant sectors.

Dr. Pierre-Louis himself made these proposals in a press release sent to us here at National Haitian Radio.

Two Opposition Leaders Return From Exile

FL2102204790 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Two members of the Haitian opposition expelled from Haiti on 24 January during the state of siege returned to Port-au-Prince on 20 February: Antoine Izmery, a merchant of Palestinian origin and member of the Association for the Respect of the Constitution, and Max Montreuil, one of the officials of the neighborhood committees in Cap-Haitian in northern Haiti. Opposition leaders and a number of enthusiastic sympathizers met these two men at Mais Gate International Airport upon their arrival from the United States. [passage omitted] We would like you to listen to statements made yesterday by these two returning exiles. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Montreuil] There is a struggle that must continue, and I had to return. Also, I am not one of those politicians who can sit in their living room engaging in politics; that is not my style at all. I am a field man; I work out in the streets with the Haitian people. I did not at all like just sitting over there. Now I am feeling good, and am going to start working again.

[Reporter] The general said he had taught a lesson and hoped the lesson had been learned. What do you think of that?

[Montreuil] I do agree that it was a lesson. But what I learned is that I have to protect myself better, that I must be well-organized so they cannot eat me alive any time they please.

[Reporter] But Max Montreuil, does protecting yourself mean you are going to back off on all the movement you have started in Cap-Haitian.

[Montreuil] Oh no! It means I will organize the people still further. They must be well mobilized. Sometimes something bad is also good. The fact that I left permitted me to make contact with a number of people, and now I am beginning to have an even greater confidence in the struggle we are waging.

[Reporter] How do you feel about elections in Haiti?

[Montreuil] If any organization ever said it would not go to elections until a thorough clean-up had been affected, it was the Cap-Haitian neighborhood committees! The people responsible for 29 November [election day killings] are still out there, to this very day—and now the 20 January events have occurred. There has not yet been anything to show that we can feel secure and that we are safe. I have returned, but not at all for elections. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Latortue's Political Party Says Elections Needed

FL2102155390 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Modelh/PRDH [Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti/Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti] believes it is the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP], not the current government, that is organizing and will supervise the elections. Attorney Francois Latortue's party, which reminds everyone of the positions it has taken vis-a-vis the nation's political situation, feels elections are the only way possible to get Haiti out of its current suffocating crisis. Furthermore Modelh/PRDH thinks that the possibility of a repetition of the criminal acts that traumatized voters has decreased somewhat.

Finally, Francois Latortue's party says it feels CEP constitutes an important acquisition for the Haitian people because it offers the Haitian people an opportunity to get the nation out of its current political, economic, and social crisis. The Modelh/PRDH and attorney Francois Latortue say that yes, they agree to participate in the coming elections because it is not the government that is going to hold elections. It is CEP.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Mitchell Heads Team Monitoring Nicaraguan Voting

FL2102221090 Bridgetown CANA in English 2123 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, Feb 21, CANA—St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister James Mitchell left here on Wednesday [21 February] for Nicaragua at the head an international team monitoring Sunday's presidential elections.

The team from the International Democratic Union (IDU) comprises parliamentarians and officials from a number of countries including Japan, Austria, France, Britain, Jamaica, Spain, Norway, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States.

A government statement issued here said Mitchell is also being accompanied by a three member team. Mitchell is expected to meet with President Daniel Ortega and opposition candidates, the statement said.

The Vincentian prime minister will also visit Venezuela for talks with President Carlos Andres Perez on matters of mutual interest before returning home, the government statement added.

Trinidad and Tobago

Prime Minister Speaks at UN Meeting on Drugs

FL2102224690 Bridgetown CANA in English 2223 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] United Nations, Feb 21, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, A.N.R. Robinson, on Wednesday [21 February] called on the international community to use the force of laws to crack down on drug dealers. Addressing a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on drugs, Robinson acknowledged that his country had become "a major drug transit point" and was also facing a drug-use problem.

Robinson, the only Caribbean Community leader attending the UN meeting, appealed to countries to make money laundering a crime. He urged member states to trace, freeze, and confiscate the proceeds of illicit trafficking in drugs and "to utilise the technique of controlled delivery." Robinson also renewed his call for the establishment of an international court to bring to trial drug dealers.

"New levels of regional and international cooperation to overcome the problems posed in the prosecution of alleged criminal offences, such as illicit drug trafficking across national frontiers, are now a matter of grave and urgent necessity," he said. "The trial of transnational offenders through acceptable investigative and judicial procedures should now be placed not only on domestic agendas, but on regional ones as well," he added.

The proposal for an international criminal court with jurisdiction over certain categories of offences is now a matter of urgent consideration by the international community.

"While the international situation may not in the past have been favourable for such an innovative measure, I must ask again whether we can ignore or make weak and inadequate responses to the escalating dehumanisation of our people by traffickers who, like maggots, fatten themselves on decay and death," Robinson said.

In his appeal for legislative action, Robinson said his country was faced with a problem because of inaction in the past. He said Trinidad and Tobago was admitting about 1,000 drug addicts every year into its hospitals for treatment. In 1970, the country did not have a single addict in any of its hospital wards, he said.

"In a country with a population of just over one million people, this is a truly dynamic and disturbing occurrence and has, as you can well imagine, created a crushing burden on our limited human and capital resources," he said.

"The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is currently preparing legislation consolidating earlier statutes dealing with the suppression and control of the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

"That legislation will also take into account the 1988 (international) convention (against illicit trafficking in narcotics) so that the drug law enforcement agencies in Trinidad and Tobago will have an additional legal instrument to penetrate bank secrecy in drug-related investigations,".

He said the legislation will also allow for authorities to trace and freeze or seize the proceeds of drug traffickers,"to extradite alleged offenders and to render mutual judicial and legal assistance to other states, parties to the convention."

El Salvador

Government on Investigation of Repatriates' Deaths

PA2102231190 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 14 Feb 90 p 69

[Communique issued by the National Communications Secretariat in San Salvador on 12 February]

[Text] Regarding the 11 February fighting in San Jose Guacorita, Chalatenango Department, and nearby places, fighting that continued today, the Salvadoran Government states that:

I. It regrets the death of and any harm to civilians during clashes between terrorist individuals known as members of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and the Armed Forces.

II. In their operations, the Salvadoran Armed Forces follow the order that bans the bombing of civilian populations.

III. Initial investigations conducted at the site of the incidents, especially statements by wounded civilians, show that two Air Force planes participated in the fighting, fighting that had been going on for approximately 48 hours. However, they were involved in the action prior to the explosions that killed and wounded the civilians.

IV. The Salvadoran Red Cross took the wounded to hospitals.

V. The government of the Republic reiterates its concern that the lives of refugees repopulating areas in conflict will be in danger during attacks by terrorists and during the defensive measures that the country's armed forces must carry out in compliance with the Constitution.

For this reason, the government has offered to relocate them in areas that are less exposed to terrorist violence and has acquired some of the best land in the country for them. However, the refugees have rejected the offer.

VI. The government of the Republic has ordered a thorough investigation to establish the truth about these sad incidents, incidents that are the result of aggression by those who still refuse to fight for political power within the country's democratic system.

Military To Pay Compensation

PA2202004690 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 17 Feb 90 p 1

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee; date and place not given]

[Text] The relatives of civilians killed during the fighting in Chalatenango Department will be compensated. The Armed Forces High Command has ordered that compensation payments to relatives of persons who died as a result of the fighting between Army troops and terrorist FMLN groups are to be processed.

The fighting took place on 11 February near San Jacinto Guancorita, Chalatenango Department. The decision was made based on the investigation conducted by the Commission to Investigate Wrongdoings and on a report by the Salvadoran Air Force pilots, which led to the conclusion that the civilians were killed by the explosion of rockets fired by a helicopter. The helicopter flew into the area at the request of Military Detachment No. 1 troops, ambushed by more than 100 terrorists who had entered the above-mentioned area in the early hours of 11 February.

The investigation also established that there were explosive materials near the homes: potassium chlorate, powdered aluminum, ground TNT, and hand grenades of the kind used by the extremist FMLN groups.

As was reported earlier, the persons killed were identified as Anabel Beatriz Lopez, 1; Blanca Lidia Guardado, 2; Estela Isabel Lopez, 9; Dolores Serrano, 11; and Jose Anibal Guardado, 28.

UN Representative Comments

PA2102232690 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 0200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Roberto Rodriguez Casasbuenas, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], emphasized the need today for the fighting forces of both sides to spare the lives of the repatriates from Honduras. After the 11 February incident in Chalatenango, where five residents were killed and 16 injured, both the Army and the FMLN were blamed for the incident.

Rodriguez said that during a visit to the site one day after the incident, it was confirmed that a rocket fired by a helicopter killed the settlers of Corral de Piedra, Guascorita, during the fighting between the Army and the guerrillas in the area.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] We confirmed the existence of abundant rocket shrapnel at the place. We did not find any evidence of bomb explosions; however, we did find evidence of rocket explosions on the ground and in the house where the families living nearby had sought refuge. All of those killed and injured were in that same house. [end recording]

The UNHCR representative also said that no explosives were found at the place, as the Army had stated, although the investigation has not been completely thorough.

Rodriguez also said that approximately 1,500 people will return to the country prior to 27 February. This is the last group remaining in the Colomoncagua refugee camp, which will be closed down. He also said 2,000 more residents from San Antonio will return to El Salvador early in March and that the international community purchased the Hacienda Azacualpita de Gualcho, north of Usulutan, to be used by them for settlement.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] As you heard before, a problem of land was still being debated in connection with San Antonio 10 or 15 days ago. We have the good news that this problem no longer exists. The international community has contributed money to purchase land north of Usulutan. The name of the property is Azacualpita de Gualcho. From now on, both those who have just returned from Colomoncagua and those who will return from San Antonio will have to face the challenge of self-sufficiency. [end recording]

In conclusion, he said that settlements are yielding results, although with certain limitations. He said the government has met with the representatives of the organizations involved and those of the refugees to iron out problems, such as the lack of respect for the process and the residents' personal identification documents by the military authorities.

FMLN Airs Message on Nicaraguan Elections

PA2202003590 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Message from the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front to the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the Nicaraguan people; date and place not given]

[Text] We are sending you this message a few days before the Sandinist victory in the elections of 25 February, when Comrade Daniel Ortega will be reelected Nicaraguan president and true democracy in Nicaragua will thus be consolidated and perfected. The elections in Nicaragua and the consequent victory of the FSLN will make democracy and socioeconomic transformations two inseparable components of the revolutionary banner and program. This is an event of momentous, historic importance to all of the Latin American peoples who are striving for independence and looking for models of revolutionary change to realize their profound hopes for peace, genuine democracy, sovereignty, and social peace.

The Sandinist victory on 25 February will make it clear to the United States that it must respect the Nicaraguan people, lift the embargo, demobilize the contras, and make it easier for us Salvadorans to achieve a negotiated solution to make it possible to bring peace and progress to Central America. This is the only rational, serious, and relevant path, and our peoples are ready for it. They have demonstrated that 10 years of armed intervention, thousands of victims, and the biggest and longest-lasting aggression in Latin America could not defeat us.

We support and express solidarity with the great effort of all FSLN cadres and militants, who are now waging another great battle and an impressive offensive for mobilization in the electoral sphere, which has entered the last stretch to deepen democracy and to conquer peace. We are ready to celebrate victory. We want peace for Nicaragua, respect for its sovereignty, and a new revolutionary stage during which we are certain everything will be better.

General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]

[Signed] Commanders Francisco Jovel, Joaquin Villalobos, Jorge Shafik Handal, Eduardo Sancho, and Salvador Sanchez Ceren

Nicaragua

President Ortega Holds Final Campaign Rally

PA2202021790 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0012 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at campaign rally to close the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, election campaign at Carlos Fonseca Amador Plaza in Managua—live]

[Text] This is the most gigantic "Face the People" in Nicaragua's history! [applause, shouts] Carlos Fonseca Park is overflowing. The Plaza of the Revolution is overflowing. Central Park is overflowing. Bolivar Avenue is overflowing, and the crowd here extends up to San Antonio Apartments. We can say, without any fear of being mistaken, that 500,000 Managuans, that 500,000 Nicaraguans have turned out this afternoon. [one minute of applause, slogans] Somebody told me the revolution is sidetracked, and wished us luck. [shouts] Has this people deviated? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Has this people deviated? [crowd shouts: "No!"] This people knows what its path is. This people knows what its future is. This revolution has had the virtue of being a fresh revolution, an always young revolution, a revolution that is always creative, a revolution that is very rich in ideas and actions.

Some claim that the people mobilize because they get paid for it or receive threats. [crowd says: "No!"] Those who say so have received millions of dollars from the U.S. Government and have not managed to buy the conscience of this people. [applause, slogans] This suffering people, this people facing great hardships because, to be frank... [changes thought] We have always been frank and it is good for our friends the observers and guests to hear that we do not deliver untruthful or demagogic speeches. Is the situation of the laborers and workers, the situation of the people from the economic or physical standpoint, good or bad? [crowd gives indistinct answer] Is it good or bad? [crowd gives indistinct answer] Is it bad? [crowd gives indistinct answer] I want this to be heard well. Is it poor? Is it poor? Of course the people's economic situation is poor. However, will the people betray the revolution because of it? [crowd shouts: "No!" after last three questions]

Are the people facing economic difficulties? Are the workers facing difficulties with their low salaries? Are the technicians and professionals facing difficulties? Are the peasants facing difficulties in the countryside when they are murdered and harassed by the counterrevolution? Are combatants in the military service risking their

lives? Do combatants in the reserves risk their lives? [crowd shouts: "Yes!" after last six questions]

However, are we cowering because of that? Are we going to stop being Sandinists because of it? Are we going to become Somozists because of it? Are we going to become contras because of it? Are we going to surrender to the Yankees because of it? [crowd shouts: "No!" after last five questions] What are we defending? [crowd shouts: "The revolution!"] The revolution. We are defending our homeland. We are defending Nicaragua. No matter how many millions the Yankees may have, the Yankees do not have enough to buy this people's conscience. [applause, shouts of "Daniel, Daniel!"]

Who brought the war? [crowd shouts indistinct answer] What did we ask for? And what do we want? What did Sandino want? And what do the sons of Sandino, who are gathered today, 21 February, in this square with Sandino's spirit, want? What do we want? [crowd shouts: "Peace!" after last five questions] We want peace, but do we want the peace of the cemeteries? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Do we want the peace of the slaves? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Do we want the peace of dignified men? [crowd shouts: "Yes!"]

We want the peace of respected men, and that is what we have demanded from the U.S. Government. We want respect. How many times have the U.S. troops threatened to invade us? Have these people trembled? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Have these people been afraid? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Have the people been ready to fight? [crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Where are the arms that have been prepared to fight the invader? Where are those arms? Where are those voices? Where are the flags that defend Nicaragua's dignity? The homeland's dignity? The homeland for which Sandino died? [crowd shouts: "Here!" after last six questions] The homeland for which Sandino still lives? [crowd chants: "Daniel! Daniel! Daniel!"]

There are those who assert that the Patriotic Military Service must be abolished.... That the reserve military service must be abolished.... That the Sandinist People's Army must disappear.... That the Interior Ministry must disappear.... That the armed people must disappear.... [crowd shouts: "No!" after last five phrases] How dare they! They want us disarmed so the Somozist Guard's barracks may rise again in Managua and all the towns of Nicaragua. [crowd shouts]

Who wants this? [crowd shouts: "UNO!"] Those of GN-UNO [National Guard - National Opposition Union] want the Somozist barracks to rise again. [crowd shouts] What did we do on 19 July with the Somozist barracks? [crowd shouts] Will a single Somozist barracks rise again in Nicaragua? [crowd shouts: "No!"; "Five! Five! Five!"] They have the gall to say they have the Nicaraguan people's support. [crowd shouts] They have the gall to say the people of Managua and all the people of Nicaragua will vote for GN-UNO on 25 February. [crowd shouts: "No!"] Who will give his vote to GN-UNO? [crowd shouts: "No one!"] Who will his vote to the contras? [crowd shouts: "No one!"] Who will give his vote to Somozism? [crowd shouts: "No one!"; "Daniel! Daniel! Daniel!"]

The people are certainly voting here; they are certainly voting here—and they are voting for peace. They are voting for a true reconciliation among Nicaraguans. Where will all those who are gathered here vote on 25 February? [crowd shouts] In which box? [crowd shouts: "Five!"] In which box? [crowd shouts: "Five!"] We will all vote in box five. [crowd shouts: "Five! Five! Five!"] As a warm-up, as a small warm-up, at 1820 today, 21 February, and accompanied by Augusto Cesar Sandino, our general of free men, we will cast our ballot! Now! In what box? Now! In what box? Now! In what box? [crowd shouts: "Five!" after last three questions]

On 25 February, we will ratify this, and we must be the first to stand in line to cast our ballot. We must mark the three voting slips: the one for president and vice president, the one for deputies, and the one for councilmen. We have to mark the three voting slips. [applause, shouts] We will mark the three voting slips. We will mark the three voting slips so there is no doubt about the absolute majority of the FSLN on the voting slip for president and vice president, the voting slip for deputies, and the voting slip for councilmen.

On 25 February, we must crush Somozism. We must crush the contras. We must crush treason. We must crush the past that we uprooted on 19 July 1979 and that will never again, never again, never again, so much as show its nose in Nicaragua. [crowd cheers, shouts slogans] All of us know, all of us know, all of us know, who will be elected president on 25 February 1990. [crowd cheers] And who will be elected vice president of Nicaragua. [crowd cheers] And who will be elected Managua mayor. [crowd cheers]

I will now name some deputies, not all of them, just some deputies. Just by....[changes thought] If we vote for them, we are voting for all the FSLN deputies. Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez. Comrade Dora Maria Tellez. Where are the women here? [crowd cheers] Where are the women? Where are the women? Comrade Leticia Herrera. Comrade Maria Ramirez. Comrade Mauricio Valenzuela. That veteran fighter and worker, Comrade Domingo Sanchez, Chaguitillo. [crowd cheers after last six names] Let the other deputies we are going to name draw closer. Carlos Carrion knows the list.

I am going to introduce to you a farmer, who, without being an FSLN activist, was able to choose between the fatherland and treason, and who decided to cast his vote for the fatherland and be an FSLN candidate, a candidate of the people—Juan Diego Lopez. [crowd cheers]

Comrade Monica Baltorero. [crowd cheers] Comrade Luis Carrion Montoya. [crowd cheers] Comrade Sixto Ulloa. Comrade Humberto Solis. Comrade Milu Vargas. Comrade Noel Cerda. I could go on naming many more.

Lower your flags, [2-second break in reception] lower your flags, please. [crowd shouts: "Carlos!"] Who will vote on 25 February for the candidates of the people, the candidates of the FSLN, and the candidates of unity? Who will vote for the FSLN councilmen on 25 February? [crowd cheers] In which box? [crowd shouts: "Five!"] In which box? [crowd shouts: "Five!"]

We can feel that the president, the vice president, deputies, and councilmen have been elected. On 25 February, we must reaffirm it. [crowd cheers] We must talk a little now, we must talk a little now, because the date 25 February is as important in the history of Nicaragua as 19 July is. That is why we must have a little talk. Today's speech cannot be very short. Today, 21 February, is like 17 July, the day of happiness when Somoza left; 25 February will be a date to celebrate victory, just as 19 July was; 21 February 1990 is similar to 17 July 1979; 25 February 1990 will be the same as 19 July 1979. [crowd cheers]

I want to talk about the following topic, which is very important for us. We have already won the election. We have won over Somozism, the National Guard, and the contras. We won the 1984 elections, and we have already won the 25 February 1990 elections. True, true, the contras have caused great harm to the people of Nicaragua. True, Somozism caused great harm to the people of Nicaragua. True, in GN-UNO there are many people who, given a little power, will murder all of us or bill us for payments due, as they said. Do you know what billing us for payments due means? Nicaraguans know well what that means, right? [crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Billing for payment due means physically eliminating a rival; it means physically eliminating him.

When I met with the political parties' leaders a long time ago, I told them that Nicaragua and the people are fortunate in that the revolution and the FSLN triumphed and opened up political opportunities for all parties, even for those who are instruments of the Yankee policy by having the contras and Somozists sleep in the same bed, covered by the Yankee blanket.

The Somozists and the contras, the enemies of the people, the exploiters of the people, are covered with Yankee dollars. I told them: If the revolution had not triumphed, if Somoza had not fallen, and if it had been you who would have governed, we would be dead or in prison. Workers would not enjoy any rights. They would have been treated as before, when they were not given the right to protest, organize themselves, or speak up. The media would have been (?silenced). The workers would have no media. You would have continued to apply the same totalitarianism applied during Somoza's time by exploiting the people.

But, I told them, the reality is something else. You must understand and admit that the revolution was headed by the FSLN and that there has been people's power in Nicaragua since 19 July 1979. This people's power makes room for other social, economic, and political forces. Let them not argue that we came up with multipartyism, the mixed economy, and nonalignmnent just because there is now perestroyka in the Soviet Union. We, the Sandinists, made this decision before the revolution triumphed. We said: We must build a revolution in Nicaragua without dogmatism or set patterns of any kind whatsoever. We must incorporate all of the producers, workers, field laborers, city employees, professionals, and everyone else into the struggle to restore the country and uplift Nicaragua. But they responded with war.

We had to defend ourselves and defeat the Yankee aggression. The Yankees are participating in these 25 February elections through GN-UNO. If we calculate the harm the contras and Somozists have inflicted on the Nicaraguan people, the debt would be enormous, much larger than the foreign debt of all Latin American countries. The revolution has been marked by its generosity in victory and for being implacable in combat. Recently I talked with His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo about our home town. We were both born in the same town, a little town called La Libertad, in Chontales. This is a very small town. Look what coincidence and the amazing way God's will has been shown. From this little town have emerged both the first cardinal and the first people's president in Nicaragua's history. What a fortunate coincidence. [applause] I always talk with the cardinal about our home town, La Libertad. On one occasion we discussed GN-UNO's threats not to recognize the electoral results. They are speaking of fraud. How are they not going to speak of fraud when they know they have lost the elections when they look at this huge crowd? [crowd cheers] The only resource left to them is to report fraud. It would not be strange for them to back down tomorrow after looking at this huge demonstration here in Managua. It would not be strange for them to back down.

But we will hold the elections. I was saying to the cardinal that these people were saying they would pass a full bill on us.

Tonight, from the Carlos Fonseca Plaza-Park, I want to tell them the debt that Somozism and the contras have with the people is enormous. The debt that Somozism, the contras, and the accomplices of the contras and Somozism have with the people is larger than the foreign debt. Is the foreign debt payable or unpayable? [crowd shouts: "Unpayable!"] It is unpayable. Therefore, on 26 February, after I have won the elections, I will call them to account. I will tell them: Since the debt is so large and is unpayable, we will forgive it. And I will give them the opportunity to convert before the Nicaraguan people. [applause, shouts]

The cardinal told me: You have more stature as president, as leader, and you should not offer them an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. I do not offer them, I do not offer them an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth, because there is no reason, there is no reason to act like this with someone who is on the ground, with someone

who has been knocked out. How can we hit someone who has been knocked out? He has already been knocked out! He is already on the ground! He has received a 10-second count and he did not get up! [applause, shouts] He could have received a 20-second count and he would not have been able to get up! [applause, shouts] He could have received a 100-second count and he would not have been able to get up! [applause, shouts]

I recently told the producers: The Sandinist revolution has outlined a truly fresh, truly new model, which has its roots in the historical reality of Nicaragua, which has its roots in Christianity, meaning the strength for changes that all the Nicaraguans have—spiritual changes, social changes, and options for the poor! That is Christianity, that is how we have understood Christianity, and that is how Christ practiced Christianity. That is where we have our roots—in Christianity and Sandinism. Sandino was full of faith in God, but he was also full of anti-imperialism, full of nationalism, and full of patriotism! That is why we are also full of Sandinism! [applause, shouts]

We have said we are interested in seeking a revolutionary model of a socialist nature, but we have never interpreted socialism in a dogmatic way. Instead, we understand socialism as the challenge that the Nicaraguan revolutionaries and all the people must face so this country may rise with the strength, energy, and will of the workers; the workers in the city and the workers in the countryside; the peasants; the small-scale, medium-scale, and large-scale producers; and the small-scale, medium-scale, and large-scale industrialists. This nation and this economy must rise with all the strength of all the economic sectors! The communist model and the capitalist model are worthless here—I have stated this at the Central American presidents' summits, and at many other times and on many occasions—only the Sandinist model, which belongs to the Nicaraguans, is worth something! [crowd applauds, shouts: "Daniel! Daniel! Daniel!"]

We know this based on our revolutionary knowledge. We know this based on our revolutionary experience. We must not copy. He who copies is a poor student. We must not copy. He who copies is a poor student. And we have been creative; we have been imaginative. This revolution has had the virtue of being a fresh revolution. That is why the people are gathered here ratifying their faith in Sandinism, their faith in the revolution, their faith in the people, their faith in their leaders, their faith in themselves! [applause, shouts]

As president-elect of the Nicaraguans, I invite all Nicaraguans tonight to build a Nicaragua that will be a model, an example for the people of Latin America, for the people of the Third World. That model will be an example of relations that must be established among big and small nations, among big powers and small nations. As the Soviet Union has known how to establish respectful relations with Nicaragua, exemplary relations with Nicaragua, without conditions of any kind, we expect the U.S. Government to have the courage and integrity to establish this kind of relations with Nicaragua.

We are prepared to discuss with the United States the problems we have, concerns they have, and concerns we have. This is a great historical opportunity for the United States because, for the first time, the United States appears to be granting respectful treatment to a small nation. If the United States respects us, it is because this has been a sacrificing people. This has been a brave people and an indomitable people, not a cowardly people. They have defeated the Yankee aggression. They have defeated Somozism. They have defeated the contras. And for that reason the U.S. Government has to respect us. The Nicaraguan people have won this respect with their blood, heroism, and patriotism. [applause, shouts]

There is room in Nicaragua for those of us who act with a patriotic feeling, with a truly nationalist feeling. It is very important to bear this in mind at this moment because we will hold the elections on 25 February. I invite all Nicaraguans—even those who still want to or are thinking of voting for UNO—to think it over and to vote in box five, to vote in the box of dignity, in the box of peace. I invite them to give their vote to peace, because voting in box one means voting for Nicaragua's destablization, voting for war, voting for Somozism, voting for the contras. Instead, voting in box five means voting for Nicaragua's stability, for economic stability, for social stability.

Therefore, I invite all to vote in box five. I even invite.... [changes thought] I say this not wishing to bother anyone. I say this here, bearing in mind the attitudes that have been held at some point, because let us remember that the lady who is a candidate for UNO was a member of the government junta and signed confiscation decrees. Let us remember this. [crowd shouts] Regardless of all he says, the gentleman who is a candidate for vice president is the one who created the SNOTS [National Labor and Wages Organization System]. By the way, and so the workers can stop worrying, we have to blow the SNOTS to pieces and come up with something else here. [applause, shouts]

Therefore, I now invite them, who have been tools and at this moment remain tools of U.S. policy, to act like Nicaraguans, to break with the North Americans, to reject U.S. policy, and to vote on 25 February in box... In box... In box... [Crowd shouts: "Five!" after last three phrases; applause]

All of us like sports very much, particularly baseball. [crowd shouts] Do we like being struck out? [crowd shouts: "No!"]

Do we like to strike out? [crowd shouts: "No!"], or do we like to get home runs? [crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Where? [crowd shouts: "Centerfield!"] Centerfield, right? Then, to warm our arms up a little, I will call on a few comrades from the (?Boer) and the Los Dantos teams. Who will we strike out on 25 February? Who will we strike out? Who will we strike out? Who will we strike out? Who will we strike out? Who will we strike out? [crowd shouts

"UNO" after last six questions] And get our home runs where? Where? Where? [crowd shouts: "Centerfield!" after last three questions] I need not present these baseball players because you all know them perfectly well. [six-and-a-half-minute pause for Ortega to autograph baseballs]. ...for the brothers maimed in the war who are present today, who began walking from the Honduran border on 5 February and entered Carlos Fonseca Square this morning.

Prior to my arrival at the square, prior to setting out in the caravan, I visited the manse at the church in Larreynaga neighborhood, where I met with Father Antonio Castro. I stopped at the father's home briefly. He took out his bible and said: I have a very lovely passage here, which I would like to read to you. Tonight, my Nicaraguan brothers, I would like to make this biblical passage mine. The passage refers to one of Solomon's dreams, a dream about God. God tells him to ask for whatever he wishes. Solomon responds: Lord, give me the ability to know how to judge, to know how to govern, to know how to forgive. God told Solomon that he was surprised that he had not requested wealth, or power to act against his enemies, but had requested wisdom to govern.

Tonight, before the heroic people of Managua, before the heroic Nicaraguan people, before the heroic blood of our heroes and martyrs, before Sandino's blood, I say along with these people: Lord, give me the wisdom to govern, give me the wisdom to be fair, give me the wisdom to forgive. [applause]

That is what we all need: Wisdom to prevail. Wisdom to make our dreams come true. Wisdom to make our illusions come true. Wisdom to make our wishes come true. That is what all the Nicaraguans want. That is what has motivated these people today to flow through the streets like rivers, rivers that come from the border. The Coco River, the Huangui River, the Sikia River, the Rama River, the San Juan River, and the Rio Grande of Matagalpa—all the rivers of Nicaragua—have overflowed this afternoon, here in this plaza full of people, full of men and women, full of consciences, full of youth, full of children! [applause, shouts]

These rivers have overflowed to this plaza to become this immense river of people, this gigantic river of people, this gigantic human river that is anxious to achieve peace, liberty, and democracy. That is what we have been building in Nicaragua: democracy. That is what we been defending in Nicaragua: peace. That is what we have also been defending in Nicaragua: justice, social justice, economic justice. That is why we have gathered here.

Tonight I want to pay homage to the brothers, comrades, women, elders, youths, and children who have died before the victory of the revolution, struggling against the Somozist dictatorship, and after the victory of the revolution. I also want to pay homage to the brothers who have died during this last week, during these months of electoral campaigning, as a result of the mercenaries' attacks. Even a five-year-old girl was assassinated. I want to pay homage to the brothers who died in accidents during the mobilizations, including an 11-month-old girl. She died in an accident following the enormous rally in Matagalpa. The 11-month-old girl and her father died. They had gone there full of love for their people. Her mother and father were members of a CAE [expansion unknown]. They brought their baby girl, an 11-month-old girl, to the rally. The father and the baby girl died in the accident.

All that holy blood, all that blood that was shed is here with us today. It is flowing in our own blood, it is flowing through our own veins, it is being pumped into our hearts and, above all, it is being pumped into our minds—telling us that the Sandinists have defended this revolution because this revolution is a revolution full of love. It is a revolution full of love for the people, workers, peasants, workers, heroes, fighters, militiamen, policemen, heroes, martyrs, sacrificed mothers, kidnapped people's mothers, mothers—mothers, who have been the ones to suffer the most in our homeland.

We also pay homage to those mothers today, with Sandino, the people of Managua, the people of Nicaragua. Our solidarity goes to those mothers, and we tell them: Mothers, here we are! We are also your sons! We are here, mothers, you are not alone! We share your grief! We accompany you, mothers, enroute to the future for which your son fought and died!

And we will not betray him, mother, because we will all be there on 25 February, with our heroes and martyrs, all the people, casting their ballot in the box for peace, in the box for dignity! What box? [crowd shouts: "Five!"] What box? [crowd shouts: "Five!"] How many days left before 25 February? [crowd shouts: "Four!"] Four days. In other words, when will the elections be held? [crowd shouts: "On Sunday!"]

Where will we vote? [crowd shouts: "In box five!"] When will the elections be held? [crowd shouts: "Next Sunday!"] Where will we vote? [crowd shouts: "In box five!"] When? [crowd shouts: "Next Sunday!"] Where? [crowd shouts: "In box five!"] When? [crowd shouts: "Next Sunday!"] [Ortega continues to ask the same questions; the crowd responds correspondingly each time]

During these months of campaign, slogans have appeared that reflect the years of struggle. We have said: We have won over the Somozist dictatorship, we defeated it on 19 July. For this reason, we say: Will we win? [crowd shouts: "We will!"] We won the 1984 elections despite the Yankee aggression. This is why we say: Will we win? [crowd shouts: "We will!"] We have won the battle against the Yankee aggression, which even included a sentence favorable to us in the International Court of Justice. For this reason, we say: Will we win? [crowd shouts: "We will!"] We have already won the 25 February 1990 elections. For this reason, we say: Will we win? Will we win? Will we win? Will we win? [crowd

shouts: "We have!" after last four questions] And everything will be better. And everything... [crowd shouts: "...will be better. Everything will be better. Everything will be better." [crowd repeats chant several times]

Everything will be better with the FSLN. Everything will be better with Carlos Fonseca, who is here with us and will vote with us on 25 February. Everything will be better with the red and black flag of Sandino, who is here with us and will vote with us on 25 February. Everything will be better with German, Camilo, Oscar, Ricardo, Elisamanda, Arley, Carlos, and all our heros and martyrs. Everything will be better. Everything will be better. Everything will be better; everything will be better; everything will be better. [crowd joins in, repeatedly shouting: "Everything will be better."]

Long live the people of Managua! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live the people of Nicaragua! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Free homeland... [crowd shouts: "...or die!"] Long live Sandino! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live Sandino! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live Sandino! [crow shouts: "Viva!"] Where are those fists? [crowd shouts: "Here!"] Where are those fists that will vote on 25 February? And how shall we vote on 25 February? [crowd shouts indistinct answer] Like this, like this, like this, like this, like this, like this. We vote here like this. [crowd joins in, repeatedly shouting: "We vote here like this."] Like this, like this, like this, like this, we vote here like this, we vote here like this, we vote here like this.

* Arce on FSLN Campaign Goals

90EM0097A Managua LA CRONICA in Spanish 8-14 Feb 90 pp 6-9

[Interview with Commander Bayardo Arce Castano, deputy coordinator of the Executive Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front; date and place not given; first five paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] A son of what was called back then (the happy 60's) a middle-class family, Bayardo Arce Castano 30 years later holds a key post in the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. Without seeming to, his decisions transcend the bounds of the ruling party.

A former president of the Council of State (1980-1981) and currently the deputy coordinator of the Executive Commission of the FSLN, he has received from his colleagues in the directorate the weighty task of running a campaign in which for the first time the FSLN must display its party muscle in elections that besides seeking to be honest and free will be subjected to intense international monitoring.

His career began with a brief stay in the run-down offices of a banking institution in Managua and continued, perhaps in 1964 or 1965, in the editorial staff of LA PRENSA, where he worked for several years while studying for and completing a degree in journalism at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua.

Next, and these are only the broad outlines, came a period of rebellion and underground activity based on an ideology that was already completely different from the one that traditional Nicaraguan society embraced. The rest...the FER [Revolutionary Student Front], the jungle, urban guerrilla activity, and the Council of State...the rest is well known.

As the campaign with which he was entrusted draws to a close (and at least from the technical standpoint of political marketing, he seems to have run it well), we present to our readers an exclusive interview with Bayardo Arce Castano, a commander with a strong devotion to and friendship with letters, the learned, and even the illiterate, one of whom is the Old Columnist.

[LA CRONICA] To begin this interview, we would like to explore some of the technical aspects of the FSLN's election campaign. First, how much money in dollars and cordobas has the FSLN spent so far on the campaign and how much will it have spent by the end?

[Arce] The two questions are hard to give specific answers to. I think that it will be easier to give an overall figure when the campaign is over, because from an economic and material standpoint we have more or less used our guerrilla experience in our approach to the campaign. We have run a campaign with what we have and we make use of what we come up with. We have received more than $250,000 in foreign exchange from overseas. That is to say, we received a donation of more than $500,000, but we've given half to the Supreme Electoral Council. Then we received a large amount of publicity items that solidarity groups have sent us: hats, caps, key rings, buckles, bags, all of the things that you see while walking through the streets.

Moreover, we set our sights on 100 billion cordobas, estimating that we would raise, when we did so, some $4 million. Now, with the devaluation of the currency, we're going to be able to raise some $2 million and change. We're moving at a good pace in the [text missing]. We also have a series of expenditures that when the time for the general accounting comes will have to be quantified but that do not represent outlays for us, such as the publicity that we do over Radio Sandino, for which we don't pay anything. It's part of the quota that belongs to the station as our property. The advertising that we do in BARRICADA is not reimbursable; it's part of the quota. But when the time comes to quantify campaign spending, they will logically have to be taken into account.

[LA CRONICA] Second, we would like to ask how many men have been, as the Sandinists say, affected by the current election campaign. What percentage of the total are volunteers and what percentage earn a salary?

[Arce] I think that all Nicaraguans are affected, because the fact that they have registered means that the campaigns of all the parties have involved them. As for the activism of the Sandinist Front, we have three areas of

mobilization. One of them is the activities of our rank-and-file activists. We've organized 4,300 rank-and-file electoral-action committees in which we've grouped together more than 60,000 militants and activists for everyday work. We've opened more than 2,800 campaign offices in the neighborhoods and bases of militants and sympathizers, and they're the hub of our campaign and our recruitment work. A second level is all of the people who got involved in choosing our candidates and in discussing our platform. We held 111 national, regional, and municipal conventions in which more than 120,000 Nicaraguans took part to select our candidates and to discuss the various platforms. Later, as far as mass rallies are concerned, we think that nationwide we were able to bring together some 50 percent of the electorate in the various mass rallies that have been held in the country; this is an estimate, of course.

[LA CRONICA] To observers of the technical publicity side of the current FSLN campaign, the slogan "everything will be better" is an implicit admission that in the past things have not gone well for the people of this country. What is your comment in this regard?

[Arce] I think that this is the biased view of the opposition. We think that "everything will be better" is based on the fact that things have been good but could be better. The foundation of our campaign, its essence, if you have noticed, embodies and vindicates all of the accomplishments of the revolution. So, our message is that in spite of the war, in spite of the $17-billion suit in The Hague, in spite of the many dead, the many orphans, and the many disabled soldiers, the fact is that we have reduced illiteracy and infant mortality, carried out an agrarian reform that turned 120,000 peasant families into owners, made thousands of workers the owners of urban properties and lots, and improved and modernized segments of the economy, and without a war, under conditions of peace, which is what we are hoping for with another election victory, all of this could be better; that's the logic. And we think that the people have understood this, and after all they're the big judge.

[LA CRONICA] On a scale of 1 to 10 how would you judge the FSLN's current campaign in the following aspects: technique, design of materials used, transmission of message, emphasis on the ticket more than on the deputies and councilmen, and distribution of publicity in the various mass media? What mark would you give the campaign of UNO [National Opposition Union] in these same aspects?

[Arce] Really the only thing that we've gauged is to what extent people hear about and listen to our candidates' speeches and what they think of them. We have found that an overwhelming majority of people are familiar with the message that our candidates are putting out and that 70 percent of the people describe the message as good to very good. As for the other elements that you mentioned, technique, design of materials, distribution in the media, etc., we can't say that we've scored a 10, because we've never thought that we could be perfect. But in any event we could be above eight, between eight and nine, which is very good in terms of a grade in school.

The other point has to do with the design of our campaign, emphasizing the ticket more than deputies and councilmen. We have, in fact, devised a strategy of mutual coattails; in other words, the ticket has to bolster deputies and councilmen, and deputies have to bolster deputies and the ticket, because the great pull, the great representativity of the Sandinist Front in society can be seen only in the entire group of 2,072 candidates that we are running in these three elections. This is because among the 2,072 candidates one can find cadres with a great revolutionary track record, revolutionaries, new members, young adults, young people who bring the vigor of the younger generation, cotton growers, coffee growers, merchants, ranchers, labor leaders, peasant farmers, Evangelical leaders, Catholic leaders, women, men.

I think that UNO has copied this, with certain differences, because we have experience with teamwork and we have unquestionably put more emphasis on Daniel Ortega than on Sergio, but we've given the vice president a high profile too.

UNO is focusing only on its presidential candidate. They're using the same formula, in the sense that since the presidency is the big prize, they're focusing their efforts on it. But I think that they haven't been able to coordinate this relationship between the ticket, deputies, and councilmen very well, because of the well-known disagreements between the team running Dona Violeta's campaign and UNO's Political Council, which is running the campaigns of the other candidates. So from the technical standpoint, from the standpoint of their design of materials, from the standpoint of their campaign strategy, they don't even get a five.

[LA CRONICA] What do you think of Antonio Lacayo Oyanguren as the UNO campaign manager? What do you think his main strengths and weaknesses are? What sort of campaign would you have run for UNO?

[Arce] I think that Tono Lacayo has shown himself to be a good businessman, a good manager. His main ability, his main virtue is undoubtedly this ability that he can place and is placing in service to the campaign.

His problem is that since UNO is a recently formed alliance, it has not yet succeeded in overcoming the differences between its 14 parties and a candidate who is outside those parties. It hasn't managed to develop a comprehensive strategy, and this limits its potential.

If I were in charge of the UNO campaign, the first thing that I would do is to call for enough trust and cooperation to run the sort of integrated campaign that the Sandinist Front is running, where all of the efforts, as I said before, among the councilmen, the deputies, and the ticket are bound together for mutual reinforcement and where we don't have any sort of dispersion.

Citing the experience of Mr Lacayo himself, I think that we can say that it's as if he had a cooking-oil plant without having the seed supplies and the distribution firmly in place. So he may have a fine industrial plant and a large capacity, but he's not going to produce oil up to its capacity because his seeds and his distribution are getting sabotaged.

[LA CRONICA] In statements to the weekly LA CRONICA the vice president of the Republic, and here we're getting into the second part of this interview, spoke of the ideological reconversion of the FSLN and of a concerted effort with the opposition. We would like to ask you what the FSLN means by an ideological reconversion and concerted effort. How far would such a reconversion and such a concerted effort go?

[Arce] I don't know whether Sergio really used the term ideological reconversion, although I do think that he used the term concerted effort. In the section of our government platform on strengthening democracy, we say that after we win on 25 February we plan to summon the political parties to a concerted effort so that they can share in national efforts or help strengthen democracy and peace. This would complement the efforts that the Sandinist Government has been making in a concerted economic effort, which will enable all of us Nicaraguans, despite our differences, to work together to emerge from the difficulties of the crisis that have been caused by the war of aggression, the international economic problems plaguing us, and internal difficulties, including mistakes that we may have committed as a government over these 10 years. So, such concerted action, as the term implies, will have the scope that the parties to it want.

The extent to which the parties are willing to play a constructive role will determine the possibilities of the Sandinist Front. We must remember that in 1984 some parties didn't even want to stand behind the democratic exercise of an election and chose to abstain. Even today there are certain national and international political forces that are afraid that given Dona Violeta's and Virgilio's history of resigning, they may even withdraw from the campaign. Well, we'll have to see to what extent, as losers, they are going to be willing to accept the rules of democracy, under which the loser does not simply say, I'm leaving, but accepts his defeat and plays a constructive role in which his disagreements enable him to start building up strength. So, the attitude of the other parties is going to determine what concerted action there is.

This isn't even necessarily linked to the election. I would like to remind you that in late 1988, in the Assessment of the Year I announced that in 1989, on the 10th anniversary of the revolution, we were going to reassess the philosophy of the Front as a party and the policies of the revolution so that we could plan it up to the year 2000. We began working on that in January 1989, but when the Central American presidents resolved, on Nicaragua's initiative, to move the election forward and thus further peace, the work of reassessing the course of the revolution logically had to take a back seat.

So, what we did was to postpone that task until 1990. This way we would have not only the experience of these 10 years that we visualized in late 1988 but also the experience of this electoral struggle. Furthermore, we now have another experience to bear in mind: all of the political developments that have been taking place in Eastern Europe and the world in general. So we have our 10 years of experience, we have what this electoral struggle has given us, and it has shown in a very practical way what the people like and do not like about our performance in office, and we have the experience of other revolutions and other political processes in the world. All of this will logically have to be discussed internally so that we can come up with a new expression of the revolution. I wouldn't call this ideological reconversion but rather a honing of the revolutionary process.

[LA CRONICA] If the FSLN wins the election, as it has predicted, do you think that President Ortega will run the same sort of government as over the past 10 years or will he make fundamental changes, both in the cabinet and in political, economic, social, and institutional guidelines? What changes do you foresee as a member of the National Directorate? If the FSLN wins, could we see opposition figures in the new cabinet alongside President Ortega? In what areas?

[Arce] I think it's unlikely that the government will remain the same after February. There are, of course, many cadres who have played a very important role over the past 10 years, the hardest years. But with a different panorama, with a situation of peace now, I think that President Ortega will no doubt make changes in the government, which the country's new political realities demand, moreover. All of this, logically, has to be reflected in the approach and the dynamics of the government. Now, as to how far this will go, as to what well-known opposition leaders could be in the cabinet alongside President Ortega, I sincerely don't see such a possibility in the immediate future. I think that prominent independent figures are more likely to play that role, as they have in the past, because even now we have people in the government who are not members of the Sandinist Front.

I don't see it not so much because we're unable to invite a member of the opposition to join the cabinet as because we do not think that they are mature enough to sit in the cabinet. And I say this on the basis of such crucial experiences as the international conference of donors that Sweden organized to help solve Nicaragua's economic problems. I don't think that the opposition is mature enough so that when you invite one of its leaders to take a post, he will accept it, because he's going to be afraid that they'll accuse him of having been an infiltrator, a traitor, etc., especially if we bear in mind that there is very shaky unity and everyone suspects everyone else in the opposition and in the main force that is after us, UNO. Anyone of them who accepts a post alongside

President Ortega is immediately going to be stigmatized as an infiltrator who kept causing problems that made them lose the election.

[LA CRONICA] What are your predictions for 25 February? By what margin will the FSLN win the presidency? How many seats does the FSLN expect to get in the National Assembly? What is it expecting in the races for mayor of Managua, Leon, Granada, Matagalpa, and Chinandega? Do you think that Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez will retain the presidency of the National Assembly?

[Arce] I expect that given the strategy that we are pursuing, the percentage of the vote for the Front is going to be similar on the three ballots. I don't expect, of course, that the percentages are going to be the same, but they will be within a certain range, no more than four percent between one vote total and another, I think. So, I expect that we will have a majority in the National Assembly and I see Carlos Nunez presiding over the National Assembly during the next term of government. I don't have the slightest doubt that Sandinist candidates are going to win the mayoral elections in Chinandega, Matagalpa, Granada, Leon, and Managua. In general, I think that whereas at this point the polls are showing us with 56 percent of the sure voters (this is what Greenber-Lake had, and our polls are around there), our overall percentage on the three ballots is going to top 60, and we still have 3 weeks to reach our goal.

[LA CRONICA] You served as president of the Council of State in 1980 and 1981. For what reason has Commander Arce Castano abandoned the legislative field? Wouldn't you like to have returned to that political arena?

[Arce] Commander Arce Castano does not act only on the basis of his own inclinations. As a member of a revolutionary party, he combines and coordinates his own aspirations with the overall interests of the party, which in turn represents the interests of the entire people. For the time being our organization feels as a group that Commander Nunez has been performing legislative tasks well. There are other fields in which my involvement, my efforts, are needed, and this is why I am not on the slates of candidates either for the legislature or for any elected office. I'm not running for anything. I imagine that after the 25th, given all of the changes that are going to have to happen, those changes may involve me. I've been in charge of the party's structure, of organizational work, propaganda, and recruitment, and since everything is going to be better, some things will have to affect us all.

[LA CRONICA] Has the FSLN been thinking about an alliance within the Legislative Assembly? How and with whom could such an alliance come about?

[Arce] I think that this is one of our plans: summoning the parties to a concerted effort for the sake of reconciliation, of strengthening democracy, and second, working for the country's economic well-being.

Accordingly, we are not ruling out the possibility of forming alliances. It's hard to say with whom such an alliance could be developed, though, because first we will have to see what the makeup of the Assembly looks like. If we go by the polls, all indications seem to be that the Assembly, if the present trend holds, will be made up of representatives of the Sandinist Front, of UNO, and at most, perhaps the Social Christian Party. I don't know whether the Conservatives and the PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party], who are next, can make it in. The others, at least according to the polls, have no chance to make it. So we'll have to wait and see what happens.

I think that if we assume that they can make it, it makes more sense to have an alliance with some UNO people, because the PRT is clearly a dogmatic and unruly Trotskyite organization. The Social Christians have a philosophy that is quite different from ours, as do the Conservatives. In contrast, UNO has a very broad makeup, and though I don't know whether it will survive after 25 February, there may be a chance to forge some sort of alliance. I think that the important thing, once the Assembly is in place, is for us to put together a sort of Patriotic Front that will work to improve the country's political-judicial dimension.

[LA CRONICA] Rumor has it in the streets of Managua that the FSLN campaign manager is planning three major surprises for the close of the campaign that will put the crowning touch on it. There is talk of repealing the Compulsory Military Service Law, of a law making it possible to return unjustly confiscated assets, above and beyond Decree 39, and of reprivatizing foreign trade. Is there any truth to these rumors? Do you think that UNO could counter these three blows?

[Arce] We don't have an individual campaign manager. We have a team, and we think that the campaign ought to make a successful contribution, from a political and technical standpoint, to strengthening the Sandinist Front in power, but not by sacrificing the fundamental principles of the revolution.

I can tell you that if we have some surprise in store, if we have some bombshell in reserve, it will never be to repeal the Compulsory Military Service Law.

I don't think either that we're going to propose returning what has been confiscated, because the foundation of this country's future stability is really the fact that there has been a democratization of property. What guarantees stability is that the peasant farmers own their land, and in an improved economy, they are going to have more loans, more technical aid, more inputs to produce with, without giving thought to any specific sort of revenge.

So, toying around with things that could endanger the stability that Nicaragua needs to get ahead is not in our plans, even in the ones after our victory, much less before 25 February.

As for foreign trade, I don't think there's a need to reprivatize. What has to be done, in any event, is to refine, and I don't think the home stretch of the campaign is the time to do this. What is already happening is that a great many businessmen are importing and exporting directly and freely with government support.

If UNO is planning some surprise to counter these three, it's wasting its time. In any event, if we can think something up before the end of the campaign, it's not going to be in these three areas, and logically I wouldn't tell you right now because it wouldn't be a surprise.

[LA CRONICA] What role would the FSLN be prepared to play if it should lose the presidential election and be in the minority in the National Assembly? Would it be a confrontational opposition or a constructive opposition?

[Arce] This is a more than hypothetical question, because there is really absolutely no possibility of our losing with a minority vote that would make the Sandinist Front an insignificant force, if we were to lose at all. In any case and in general, we have indicated that if the Sandinist Front is defeated in the elections, it has to accept defeat, just as we expect the opposition to accept defeat, which is not something that we're inventing because all of the polls reflect it.

Now then, the constructive attitude of an opposition has to do with the constructive attitude of a government. In our campaign we have been saying that we're going to appeal to the parties, that we're going to promote a concerted effort, that we're going to promote reconciliation. From that standpoint, the forces that oppose us can rest assured: they are going to have a major role in the country's new realities. In contrast, this is not the outlook that one visualizes from the language of UNO, because UNO is saying that the Sandinists have to be crushed; this is the language of vengeance, of revenge.

So, what we want to do is give everybody the confidence that our triumph is not going to mean that we are now going to look on the losers as enemies who have to be exterminated, but rather that we are going to give them their chance, and we think that this is the logic with which we have to proceed....

Note: LA CRONICA would like to point out that the vice president of the Republic, Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, did not in fact use the phrase "ideological reconversion" in the interview that this weekly published in issue 59; rather, he spoke of "procedures" and "mechanisms."

Police Issue Communique on FSLN Campaign Rally

PA2102141890 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1220 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Joint communique issued by the Sandinist Police General Directorate and the Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, Office for Region Three in Managua on 20 February]

[Text] The Sandinist Police General Directorate and the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] for Region Three, using the powers granted by the law and in view of the fact:

1. That on 21 February, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] will hold a rally closing its election campaign;

2. That this activity should take place within an atmosphere of absolute normalcy to guarantee people's tranquillity and security;

3. That along with the FSLN, the CSE for Region Three and the Sandinist Police are committed to maintaining peace and tranquillity;

The Sandinist Police and the CSE for Region Three agree to enforce the following measures:

1. Between 1000 and 1900 on 21 February, no one, except for duly identified military men on active duty, in Region Three is allowed to carry weapons, knives, or clubs or any other object that could cause physical harm to a person.

a. No one will be allowed to transport toxic material or explosives throughout Region Three.

b. The distribution, consumption, and sale of alcoholic beverages during the 21 February political rally are banned throughout Region Three.

c. No one should damage or destroy any type of political propaganda belonging to the various political parties participating in the elections. People will not be allowed to paint political propaganda on buildings whose owners have not authorized such actions.

2. Participants in the 21 February rally are not allowed to shout agitating slogans that could lead to violence or actions that violate the law and the electoral ethics code.

3. People should respect the Sandinist police, electoral supervisors, and the electoral observers who will attend the FSLN march and rally, and citizens in general.

Issued in Managua on 20 February 1990.

UNO Leaders Denounce 'Atmosphere of Fear'

PA2102235290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2244 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The National Opposition Union (UNO), composed of 14 political parties, today accused Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge of "creating an atmosphere of violence" for the 25 February elections.

Agustin Jarquin, member of the opposition coalition's political council, asserted that the government wants to create "an atmosphere of fear to influence the people so

they do not cast their ballots." "The Sandinists know they have lost the elections," Jarquin added, referring to the 25 February elections.

Joaquin held the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) responsible "for what may happen" during the elections, which will be watched by approximately 2,000 international observers.

During a news conference held today in Managua, the opposition leader said the Sandinists have plans to "disguise" FSLN sympathizers with UNO insignias "to cause problems and disrupt order on election day."

Jaime Bonilla, who is also a member of the opposition alliance, said the ruling FSLN "should pledge not to advocate violence" on election day.

UNO lawyer Hernaldo Zuniga read, to the local and foreign media, a letter addressed to the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) in which the opposition "fully" supports the organization's decision to carry out the vote-counting activities and proclaim the results. Furthermore, the opposition coalition supports the procedures adopted by the CSE to prevent electoral violence on 25 February.

The CSE decided to ban anticipated public celebrations on election day.

The opposition leaders' statements occur one week after President Daniel Ortega demanded that they clearly explain the meaning of the phrase "we will call the Sandinists to account after the elections," which was issued by UNO vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy.

Nevertheless, UNO campaign director Antonio Lacayo denied that the opposition is preparing to take reprisals against the Sandinists after the elections if they win.

UNO Expresses Support for CSE Regulations

PA2102221490 Paris AFP in Spanish 1920 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 21 Feb (AFP)—In a communique issued today, the National Opposition Union [UNO] of Nicaragua, the main opponent of the Sandinist Front in the Nicaraguan 25 February elections, expressed its "full support" for the regulations issued by the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] on 20 February to avoid acts of violence on election day.

Yesterday, the opposition coalition, composed of 13 political parties of varied ideologies, refused to sign a document along with the other nine organizations participating in the elections, saying they would later present a "broader explanation" on the matter.

UNO's refusal to sign the document was criticized yesterday by the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) campaign chief, who interpreted UNO's refusal as a demonstration that UNO is not ready to accept the results" of the elections. [quotation marks as received]

Bayardo Arce also expressed his concern, because he thinks UNO "secretly maintains the threats made by Virgilio Godoy (UNO's vice presidential candidate) to promote disturbances on election day."

In its communique issued today, however, UNO cleared away those concerns by stating its willingness to abide by all the regulations established by the CSE regarding security on election day.

Similarly, UNO committed itself to "respect the results" of the elections, reserving for itself the right to use the "resources" established by the law. UNO agreed to the CSE's decision "to conduct the definitive election vote count" only in the presence of the opposition party poll representatives and international observers.

With that statement, UNO gave up its reiterated demand of holding "a public vote count." UNO had been making that demand as an additional guarantee to avoid election fraud.

The communique released to the press today said: "The honorable CSE can be absolutely sure it can count on our willingness to meet all the commitments that our alliance has made in this election process."

Finally, UNO demanded that the FSLN express its commitment "before the Nicaraguan people and the international community to turn over power without any reservations" to the party that is proclaimed the winner of the current elections.

The UNO communique added: "That would contribute very much to public tranquillity and calm."

Chamorro Predicts Changes in Military Role

PA2102215690 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Sure of her victory in the 25 February elections, National Opposition Union [UNO] presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has expressed her confidence that the military will be under civilian power. She stressed that the Army will be reduced in accordance with the country's needs and possibilities. Here is what she said yesterday afternoon:

[Begin recording] As Nicaraguans, we feel proud of and at the same time protected by the presence of so many observers these days who have come to witness the emergence of a new democratic republic [applause]. The fate of the Nicaraguan people will be at stake on the 25th. I believe that Central America's fate is also at stake, as I said in my speech on 18 February. We believe we will have free elections, because we have faith in God and in our people. We have faith in our victory, and as democrats we are willing to accept the people's will, whatever the results may be. [applause, shouts]

As I have said before and will repeat here, in the remote case we lose the elections, I will personally congratulate my opponent, as all democrats do. [applause] However, I want to stress that I have not heard the same expression from President Ortega. On the contrary, we have heard some worrisome words. [applause] They have said they are willing to transfer the government, but not power, that the Defense and Interior Ministries must remain in the hands of the Sandinists, [applause] and that Interior Ministry officers will not receive orders from a government headed by UNO. In sum, it is still not clear if they have also accepted the rules of the democratic game. [applause]

If we win—and I trust we will— we will have the government and we will hold power as well. [applause] There will be no more civilians acting as secretaries of the military, as my husband Pedro Joaquin Chamorro used to say. The military will have a place in the emerging new republic, but they will not be directors of our national life, because militarism has generated the worst dictatorships in Latin America, and we have had enough of that in Nicaragua! [applause] Anyone who wants to wear a uniform and carry a rifle can do so, but he should serve the fatherland and not a party. [applause] We do not want and will not permit more armed parties like the Sandinist National Liberation Front in our fatherland. They can stay in our fatherland, and they will play an important role as a second political force in the country. [applause] However, there should be a clear separation between the party and the national army, whose size should be in accordance with the country's economic possibilities and needs. [applause]

There is no better place in the world to celebrate this forum for democracy than in Nicaragua. For that reason I congratulate all the organizers of this momentous event. Winds of change are blowing all over the world, and have even knocked down the Berlin Wall and other places. We Nicaraguans want to make changes too, and I promise you that we will not stay behind the changes that are taking place. [applause, shouts]

You have come just in time to see the most important political phenomenon in Nicaragua and Central America in the past 50 years. A [word indistinct] and tired [word indistinct] is coming to an end, and a strong democratic revolution is emerging through the people's vote. Thank you, my dear friends. [applause]

BARRICADA Reports on Final UNO Rally

PA2202014790 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Feb 90 p 13

[Text] The largest portable rally in the entire National Opposition Union [UNO] election campaign failed to fill the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua yesterday. According to information provided by an OAS observer, approximately 40,000 people participated in the closing event of the rightist alliance election campaign.

Approximately 3,000 trucks, trailers, buses, and station wagons, along with some 2,000 private cars, transported the portable UNO rally into Managua from the most distant places in the country, including—according to Radio Corporacion—a small group of people from the Atlantic coast.

In his speech, UNO vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy denied statements made by the UNO Political Council two days ago and by the UNO presidential candidate herself, in the sense that UNO will not promote violence on election day. Visibly upset, Godoy said: "We are not afraid of the dictatorship's repressive apparatus. The people will rally to defend the stolen votes on election day."

Godoy's violence forced presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro to try to play down Godoy's outburst. Mrs. Violeta urged her supporters "to use their common sense and to make nonviolence prevail." She also urged them to "vote on 25 February and then return home to give the world and all observers an example of democracy and good citizenship."

After granting a vote of confidence to her campaign chief Antonio Lacayo, for whom she requested applause, Mrs. Violeta distanced herself from the threats expressed by Virgilio Godoy a few minutes earlier. In a conciliatory manner, Mrs. Violeta said: "I want peace and reconciliation." She was subsequently cheered by her supporters. Mrs. Violeta requested applause for all the UNO representatives, including Arnoldo Aleman, who is running as a candidate for mayor of Managua. However, she did not mention her running mate Virgilio Godoy. Independent observers interpreted the omission of Godoy's name as a clear signal of the serious disagreements that still exist within UNO.

Most of the participants in the rally came from all of the country's regions. They were brought to Managua thanks to a gigantic transportation operation that began on 17 February, and ended at 0700 yesterday, 18 February. Thousands of trucks and vehicles were parked near the Plaza of the Revolution, and all of them had signs bearing the name of the place they were coming from. Some of them said Corinto, Chinandega, Boaco, Camoapu, Matagalpa, Jinotega, and Somotillo.

The portable rally was placed in the most important roads leading into Managua. From there, the demonstrators marched toward the plaza. Very few people joined the march as it went by the various Managua streets and by 0900 vehicles could move normally through all the Managua neighborhoods.

The organizers of the rightist rally used several tricks to try to "fill the square." In addition to the seven trailers on which the main stand was placed, several private cars and station wagons could be seen in the square, as well as some 5,000 soda, food, candy, and cigarette vendors who had set up their carts and stands there.

That detail did not go unnoticed by the foreign press, because at Sandinist rallies vendors and cars are placed on Bolivar Avenue so people can get to and stand on the square where the rally is taking place.

In an attempt to imitate the enormous FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] demonstrations, the UNO rally organizers placed part of the portable rally atop the destroyed cathedral, and groups of youths even imitated the human pyramids that have made the cubs of the SMP [Patriotic Military Service] very popular. Nothing, however, prevented observers from noticing that a large part of the square near the National Palace was empty.

Mrs. Violeta read a defensive speech apparently aiming at neutralizing the fear that her own electoral rank and file feel regarding UNO's political platform, which sounds like a return to the past. This time, the UNO presidential candidate's advisers made efforts for her to say that, in the hypothetical case UNO could govern Nicaragua, "it would not take land away from peasants and it would not leave government employees and the fatherland's soldiers jobless."

Almost nobody, however, noticed the change of tone in what has been UNO's vengeful language.

Mrs. Violeta's assistants made her say that the government had suspended Radio Catolica and Radio Noticias transmissions because they transmitted the UNO rally. At the end of Mrs. Violeta's speech, however, the Radio Corporacion announcer explained that those radio stations had never been off the air. They said the problem was that the radio stations failed to request a permit from the Supreme Electoral Council to join the radio network and that for that reason they were withdrawn from the radio network. The announcer explained that the aforementioned radio stations were never taken off the air.

Groups of tired and run-down peasants were resting at the Parque Central near the Mausoleum of Commander Carlos Fonseca, chief of the revolution. The mausoleum was guarded by a special Sandinist police brigade to prevent possible attacks such as the ones UNO vice presidential candidate Godoy mentioned in his speech.

However, the rally took place more or less in order, despite the constant attacks on the Nicaraguan authorities transmitted by Radio Corporacion. The attacks were linked to alleged attempts to prevent the arrival of the portable rally to the square, which the independent observers never saw filled with people.

CSE President Explains Resolution on Election

PA2202041290 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Dr. Mariano Fiallos, president of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], announced on 20 February that the CSE is working hard to prevent any incident that will mar the elections. Fiallos also announced a resolution establishing the latest regulations on the forthcoming elections.

Fiallos pointed out that once the electoral campaign concludes at 2400 on 21 February, the CSE will continue with its public information campaign for three days. Dr. Fiallos announced a resolution that seeks to prevent any incidents that might mar the electoral process. The resolution specifies, among other things, that the counting of votes and the announcement of final results are the exclusive responsibility of the CSE.

[Begin Fiallos recording] Therefore, the persons running for office must respect the results. Complying with the constitution and the electoral law, the CSE has organized a system of electoral guarantees whereby the people may rest assured that their votes will be fully respected. As of 2400 on 21 Feburary 1990, no political campaigning will be allowed.

The holding of opinion polls or publication of the same is banned until 1800 on 25 February 1990. It is prohibited to form groups or carry out any campaigning inside or near the voting places on election day. [end recording]

In its resolution, the CSE also invites the media and journalists to report fairly on the elections.

* Post-Election 'Pact' Improbable

90EM0097B Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 8 Feb 90 p 2

[Commentary by Jose Velasquez: "Concerted Action Yes, But Not a Pact"]

[Text] In the 1 February issue of LA CRONICA, economist Oscar Rene Vargas endorsed the argument that even if the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] wins the elections, it will inevitably have to enter into a political pact with some sectors of UNO [National Opposition Union], with a view towards resolving the pressing problems that are besetting the country, such as choosing a given economic model, the issue of investment, bringing in foreign funds, liquidating the counterrevolution, etc.

The idea of a political and social pact between what UNO assumes are the two main forces among the nation's voters is similar in many ways to the thinking of Eli Altamirano. As a member of the Political Council of UNO and as a leader of a presumed Communist Party, he asserted recently on the SSTV [Sandinist Television System] newscast that for now what the nation urgently needs are solutions to its grave problems and that therefore the class struggle would be postponed and set aside, even though it remains latent.

Although from different perspectives, as one can observe, the two positions agree on the unavoidable need for a political pact between the FSLN and UNO, whichever one is the victor at the polls.

It is interesting to note, however, that neither Vargas nor Altamirano says specifically what the scope and extent of such a political pact would be, much less how long it would take (even a tentative estimate) to resolve the economic and social problems "of the moment" and, therefore, when such a pact would expire.

Etymologies aside and dispensing with the rhetoric that has done us so much harm, a political pact would mean taking on a commitment and an obligation. In our case this would imply ideological concessions, given that the far right is not going to settle for small shares of power in the Executive Branch and in running a revolutionary government, because it realizes that such a government is leading society along political, social, and economic paths that are alien to its own bourgeois ideology.

And if concessions on principles would, as we see, have to be made in such a pact, then the FSLN would cease to be a revolutionary party and, ipso facto, we would see the stagnation and subsequent liquidation of the revolutionary process for the sake of resolving major national problems, which in the view of certain specialists and politicians cannot be done without a political pact between the revolution and the far right.

The concept of a concerted effort that Vargas initially mentions seems more viable to us, because it implies a coming together of wills among all major forces to resolve the various problems afflicting the country, but without concessions on ideological principles.

Incidentally, 3 years ago Sandinism not only proposed such concerted action to the country judicially by setting forth in the constitution the principles of the mixed economy, four forms of ownership, political pluralism, and nonalignment, but has also in practice strengthened such action politically with sound results in the area of production.

At most, then, what the new government of President Ortega would have left to do in this aspect of concerted action is to define more specifically, in special laws, the ground rules for the economy and for production, including an equitable fiscal policy, all of which is already provided for in the Political Constitution itself.

But, we repeat, a concerted effort is one thing, and a political pact with concessions on principles is something completely different.

Moreover, to call the FSLN and UNO, a priori, the most influential political forces is to calmly accept the deceptive political polarization that Yankee imperialism has imposed on us and to liquidate with one stroke of the pen the other ideological and political forces that exist in the country and are taking part in the electoral process.

In contrast, far removed from dubious polls and predictions and basing our view mainly on what we can observe in the various social strata of the electorate, we believe that UNO is going to get a small percentage of the vote.

And if as expected the FSLN garners at least 60 percent of the popular vote and thus assures itself an absolute majority in the Legislature, it would be very foolish and politically absurd for it to sign a pact with some or all sectors of UNO.

Political Analyst Comments on Upcoming Elections

PA2202002290 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The 18 February rally has changed the opinion and predictions of international observers who thought Daniel Ortega would be the sure winner of the upcoming elections.

LE MONDE, one of the world's most prestigious newspapers, reported that the final campaign rally of the National Opposition Union [UNO] surprised everybody and that international observers, who were sure Daniel Ortega would win, have radically changed their opinions. Even the Soviets, who are allies of the Sandinists, have expressed their willingness to eventually cooperate with a UNO government, LE MONDE reported.

After the 18 February rally, which was attended by huge crowds, any doubts about who will win the 25 February elections were dissipated. However, the campaign of creating fear around the elections, being waged by the Interior Ministry, worries us, said Dr. Emilio Alvarez Montalban, who is nationally and internationally recognized as one of the most serious and accurate Nicaraguan analysts on the country's political situation.

"The Awakening" newscast interviewed Dr. Alvarez this morning:

[Begin recording] [Alvaréz] The most recent UNO rallies clearly show there is a snowball effect. An increasing number of people have been gathering to express their solidarity for UNO day after day. I harbor no doubts that the UNO presidential ticket will win.

What worries me is a campaign being waged by the Interior Ministry to sow what we could describe as fear among the citizens, to create an atmosphere of distrust. This is a well-orchestrated campaign. The most recent example of this is the hasty and untimely charges against [name indistinct], who is a technical adviser to Violeta Chamorro's presidential campaign.

This man is a Venezuelan technician who came to Nicaragua and was hired as an adviser. He has given no advice or written any documents that could be considered as part of a subversive strategy. The truth is that this government is following a very clear policy: It must maintain an atmosphere of agitation, anxiety, threats, and oppression among the citizens to prevent them from voting out of fear of participating or of being caught in violence on the streets.

However, this is somewhat obsolete. Governments that cling to power through fear are now in the dustbin of

history, and the opposite is true: The people want encouragement, hope, and optimism from their authorities.

As for the behavior of the interior minister, who is the supreme police chief, he should not get involved in politics. He should distance himself and maintain his professionalism to deserve the country's respect.

[Reporter] What will the observers' role be?

[Alvarez] They will play a very important role, because electoral processes crowded with observers suggest that they profoundly distrust the governments to which they are accredited. There is no reason for the presence of so many observers in the Nicaraguan elections as there would be, for example, at elections in Colombia and Venezuela.

However, given the background of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, it is logical that there are not one, but five groups of observers here: The United Nations, the OAS, the Carter Group—made up of former presidents—the [words indistinct] International Conservative Democracy, and the Center for Democracy. The Episcopal Conference, which has a saying in this, is also acting as an observer.

Therefore, these elections will be well-monitored. Fraud on election day, which was normal during the Somoza regime and was also committed by the Sandinists in the 1984 elections, will not take place this time. They know this and are resorting to the two most common means used by military and dictatorial governments such as theirs: Instill fear among the citizens and implement a policy of flattery and gifts.

[Reporter] The Nicaraguan people are afraid in these elections. Politicians and observers have noted this, and we ourselves have confirmed it. Do you believe the Nicaraguans will shed their fear come voting time?

[Alvarez] I believe there was much fear in the beginning. However, as time goes by the people are realizing that these elections are not a concession granted by the Sandinists, but the result of pressure exerted by the current international situation. People are shedding their fear and increasing their participation.

The government is obviously exercising more pressure in rural areas against humble and quite uninformed peasants. However, even rallies in those areas are attended by large crowds. The ones in Boaca and Matagalpa surprised me.

I believe the government, if it has good intentions, should advise the people not to be afraid. Tell them the authorities will not bother them and they will not lose their jobs if they vote for UNO. It should assure them that they are not being watched by anybody and that they enjoy their rights. This would be a positive move.

[Reporter] What influence will the precedent of past fraudulent elections have on the 25 February elections?

[Alvarez] They are ghosts that are reappearing, because the truth is that this country has never had free elections. The only such elections were held in 1928, but that is a thing of the past that will never be repeated, because the U.S. Marines supervised those elections.

The governments have always sought to manipulate the elections. One of the principles of this barbaric political culture is that whoever counts the votes wins. Therefore, there is a cultural inclination toward believing that the elections could solve our problems. We Nicaraguans must change the situation, because we cannot continue to wage these small dirty wars every generation to reach power.

I understand there is great distrust concerning the honesty of the elections, regardless of who is in power. However, I believe this fear has been reduced to a minimum in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] What do you predict will happen to the other parties?

[Alvarez] The statistics have consistently shown that voting will be concentrated on the two main blocs, that is, the ruling party and UNO. All the other parties together are expected to garner only four to six percent of the votes. Therefore, I believe that such parties will hardly get any deputies elected. [end recording]

* FSLN Sponsors Conference on Witchcraft

90EM0091A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Jan 90 p 2

[Article by Pedro J. Chamorro B.]

[Text] Nicaragua is a country where the unusual is usual. There can be no great surprise in this small country where the minister of culture, Rosario Murillo, is currently sponsoring a gathering of "magicians and sorcerers."

"Magic is everywhere," the minister of culture and wife of President Ortega told the government daily EL NUEVO DIARIO. "It is absolutely visible and obvious."

The holding of the Congress of Sorcerers planned for this coming month of March has been defended here by President Ortega himself, who said that on the basis of the political constitution, permission cannot be denied, which is reasonable. But the fact is that the congress of sorcerers, witch doctors, and the like, was convoked by the very Institute of Culture which Murillo heads, specifically the Department of Popular Traditions, of which Roberto Mejia is in charge. Evangelical ministers have opposed the holding of this event because they believe that "witchcraft is inspired by the demon himself, and poses a threat to the faith."

However, Ortega believes that sorcerers are a good thing. "As Christians, you should have no fear, because this would mean admitting that sorcerers are stronger than

God," he said in defense of the congress being sponsored by the Sandinist government. Apparently the only bad "sorcerer," in the opinion of the Sandinistas, is Dr Francisco Mayorga. Because he promised to put an end to inflation in 6 weeks, sarcastic critics have dubbed him "the sorcerer of Montefresco."

In other words, rescuing the Nicaraguan economy and straightening the country out, as Dona Violeta's economic adviser proposes to do, is evidence of "witchcraft" to those in charge of the Sandinist media, while the convocation of a congress on witchcraft by the Institute of Culture is an act protected by the political constitution, and has to do with reviving our "popular traditions."

For the official in charge of culture in Nicaragua, according to the interview granted to EL NUEVO DIARIO, "These are sciences—the study of parapsychology, the so-called occult sciences—which can be studied and discussed as is done with other sciences, such as medicine and chemistry. In this connection," she added, "important experts have been invited to describe their experiences and the assimilation of thinking and magic practices which has occurred among the peoples in these countries."

If this opinion expressed by the guiding authority of our culture were carried a little further, magic, the occult sciences, and parapsychology might well be studied on the same level as medicine and chemistry at the universities. And it probably would be advisable to have some courses on the secondary level in order to prepare the students for the new vicissitudes of our native educational system.

The term "magician" is being applied, with a derogatory connotation, to the individual who is proposing serious solutions to our economic problems, to the student of economics who devotes many working hours to finding a way to build what others have undertaken to destroy.

The Sandinists know no magic other than destruction, and the man who proposes a change to correct the source of the problem is therefore "a bad magician."

It is possible that, given their despair at being unable to find a way to resolve the country's problems, such as galloping inflation, unemployment, and the loss of credibility, some Sandinist officials are seriously thinking of attending the congress on magic to see if magic can provide a way to resolve what they have been unable to resolve in 10 years of misgovernment.

If that is the case, then well and good, because they will have been spared, in the blink of an eye, the years which must be spent at a university to learn things without the help of magic, and with one's feet planted firmly on the ground.

The great question, then, is: Can witchcraft save them?

19 Feb Press Review on Election Campaign

PA2102170290

[Editorial Report] The pro-FSLN (Sandinist National Liberation Front) newspaper Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on pages 1 and 5 carries a Leon City datelined report by special correspondent Sylvia Torres on the 18 February rally in Leon "where 200,000 people ratified their firm support for the FSLN candidates—Commander Daniel Ortega and Dr. Sergio Ramirez." The report notes that Commander Omar Cabezas delivered the official welcoming speech for the candidates. He said: "The people of Leon will not relinquish the future they have ahead of them and for this reason they have placed in this plaza more people than the National Opposition Union (UNO) could get together in the entire country."

The report concludes by noting that "it was not by chance that this heroic city where the Sandinist election campaign began on 5 December was chosen to close the FSLN's campaign activities. Leon, home of Ruben Dario and Rigoberto Lopez Perez, is a fire that has made evident that UNO is finished."

On page 2, BARRICADA carries an interview with Ramiro Gurdian, president of the Agricultural and Livestock Producers Union of Nicaragua (UPANIC). During the interview, Gurdian states that whoever wins the forthcoming presidential elections must be "tolerant" because "throughout history, the case has been that whoever wins here, wins it all; and whoever loses, loses all. This results in abuses and in civil war."

Gurdian added: "This cannot possibly be the way. If Violeta wins, we must respect the FSLN because it would become an opposition party in Nicaragua. As a businessman, I treat smaller partners with respect. Nicaragua is like a big business. Smaller partners must be happy and respected and they must have room."

Gurdian noted: "By the same token, if the FSLN wins, it must also respect and be tolerant of the opposition, that smaller partner." Gurdian states: "We expect clear and honest elections, and if this is what happens and the FSLN wins, the private sector will definitely try to negotiate with the Sandinist government on the establishment of an adequate economic system."

Gurdian told BARRICADA that "the Sandinist government is now speaking about the private sector. It is being pragmatic in a changing world that no longer offers any support to the Marxist-Leninist philosophy." Gurdian later states that if the elections are honest, he would urge a suspension of the U.S. economic embargo against Nicaragua.

Also on page 2, BARRICADA carries in its "Socioeconomic Forum" column an item stating that "only a year ago no one could speak of a relationship of respect between the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), a severe critic of the government, and the Sandinist leaders." The newspaper notes that today

some people would be surprised to discover, "that there now exists the basis for understanding and cooperation between COSEP and the Sandinist Government."

The BARRICADA column notes that businessmen believe that "perestroyka and its effects on East European countries are the reasons for the Sandinists' move toward agreements." BARRICADA notes that they ignore "that the perspective of peace following the military victory over the counterrevolutionaries is what has permitted the reanimation of the revolution's democratic drive to create a new environment for unity and national agreement."

The government newspaper Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish on pages 1 and 8 carries an editorial under the heading "Everything Is Settled." The editorial points to the backing the FSLN received on 18 February in Leon, backing that has made evident that "poll results are not mistaken and that the FSLN will be an easy winner on 25 February."

The editorial reports that UNO did its best to gather "at Plaza de la Revolucion about 40,000 people, most of whom were brought from the interior." The editorial notes: "This is the best UNO could do. We believe this gathering will appear ridiculous on 21 February, when the FSLN supporters" will rally at the same plaza. EL NUEVO DIARIO concludes its editorial "by echoing Julius Caesar's famous phrase: The moment of truth has arrived and there is only one winner!"

Managua LA TARDE in Spanish, an evening paper issued by the FSLN to complement BARRICADA, devotes three articles to implications that UNO plans to disrupt election day activities. One report on page 3 states that "most" of the opposition parties are prepared to sign a document, presented by the Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, in which they forswear violence on election day. It says, however, that "it is still not known whether UNO will once again refuse to sign the document, as it did in December." The report carries a subtitle questioning whether UNO candidates Virgilio Godoy and Alfredo Cesar will accept the document.

The report cites Cesar Augusto Castillo, a leader of the Democratic Conservative Party, PCD, as saying that he is opposed to Godoy's call for people to remain at the voting stations and demand a public vote count. Castillo is quoted as saying that the PCD will urge its members to "wait calmly in their homes for the final election results."

The report also cites Giovanni D'Ciofalo of the Central American Unionist Party as saying that his party will sign the CSE document.

In its editorial on page 3, LA TARDE says that there has been "mass repudiation" of Godoy and Cesar's call for violence. It says that Cesar, "being more intelligent, has apparently reconsidered," but Godoy refuses to accept the Sandinist victory, which everyone, "including the United States," has already accepted. It says that Godoy's call for a public vote count could "provoke serious disturbances and defeat the nation's efforts to end the war once and for all."

The third LA TARDE article, the "Drawing a Spark" column by Guillermo Cortes Dominguez, says that despite appeals from the CSE, international observers, the Episcopal Conference, and even UNO presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro, Godoy has continued with his "plans to sow violence and chaos" on election day. The article says this is a sign that the UNO candidates are "desperate and anguished."

The columnist concludes by saying that "the gringos are already wondering what to do with the sure winner, and they are even talking about a plan to normalize relations—a plan they will discuss with the FSLN."

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA carries three articles on the election campaign centering on UNO's 18 February closing rally. A 1,500-word article by Cristina Chamorro B., Violeta Chamorro's daughter, on pages 1 and 12, claims in banner headlines that it was "The March That Changed Nicaragua." Cristina Chamorro's article emphasizes "the dictators are surprised because they think that they control the people, and suddenly they realize that the unity among the people is actually a force against the dictatorship." Although for years the Sandinists have tried "to control" the people, "the time is here" for the Nicaraguans who "defeated the dictatorship," the article adds. The article is accompanied by many pictures of the rally where "freedom won."

An article by Julio Cesar Armas on page 3 notes that at this rally, "the people said goodbye to Sandinism." The 600-word article quotes from the speeches by Virgilio Godoy and Violeta Chamorro, who both agree: "We have won."

The third article, also on page 3, and is written by Maximo Guillermo Alonso, who reports from Leon on the Sandinist rally also held on 19 February, where "Ortega lost control of himself when he predicted defeat" and "referred to the 'damned' opposition members." In this 450-word article, Alonso concludes that Ortega "is feeling desperate over the victory" of the UNO slate.

* Economy Minister Outlines Priorities

90EM0091B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] The battle to reduce inflation to a level below a cumulative 1,600 percent by the end of 1990 will be the main undertaking, parallel to economic reactivation of the country, of the revolutionary government this year, Commander Luis Carrion Cruz, minister of economy, industry, and trade, has announced.

In order to continue this great task, which was launched in 1989, Minister Carrion has demanded the involvement of all of the economic and social agencies in the

country, "because the economic recovery of Nicaragua is not for the exclusive benefit of a given sector, but for the benefit of all of society."

The minister of economy recalled that the first results of these efforts became evident in 1989, when by the end of the year, the hyperinflation of 33,000 percent reported in 1988 was reduced to 1,689 percent.

In this connection, Commander Luis Carrion invited the agricultural and industrial producers—and he included the trade sector—to set aside ideological slogans and to contribute their grains of sand to moving the economy of the country forward.

In speaking about the principal lines of action to be pursued in the effort to control inflation, the Sandinist leader emphasized that they will have to include a drastic reduction in public expenditures, with rational distribution of credits and other measures designed to have an effect on certain inflationary elements.

He said that the recent devaluations do not mean that the government lacks the ability to exert a forceful influence on containment of the inflationary indices.

The continuing minidevaluations, the minister of economy explained, are due to the excessive currency generated by the electoral campaign. However, the inflationary trend will begin to decline after 25 February, "when we enter into a more favorable phase," he gave assurance.

Need To Strengthen Enterprises

The Ministry of Economy, Industry, and Trade will concentrate its actions this year on supporting the economic agents under its jurisdiction, mainly those sectors which were harshly affected by the anti-inflationary decisions in the adjustment plan launched in January of 1989.

Among the sectors to be given priority are small industry, the textile-garment branch, and others. The main goal is for them to raise their production levels and reduce their operational costs.

And as no economy can develop normally without trade activity, the large, average, and small merchants comprise another service sector to which the ministry will devote great concern this year.

"Trade in Nicaragua must be modernized. It must become more efficient and more competitive," the minister of economy said in his analysis, noting that just buying and selling does not suffice in this activity.

In order to review and analyze the combination of elements involved in trade activity, a decisive sector in controlling inflation, President Daniel Ortega has summoned the merchants to a national gathering which will be held in Olof Palme on 7 February.

* FSLN Inflation Predictions Scored

90EM0091C Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Minister of Economy Alejandro Martinez Cuenca was off-balance in all of his predictions, which he continued to amend again and again throughout the year.

Unable to make up his mind, and despite the Taylor Plan for achieving recovery and reducing inflation, which has been criticized for provoking a fatal economic recession, that is to say for causing national production to drop still more drastically, Martinez Cuenca had to admit to inflation of 1,689 percent in 1989, whereas his initial prediction had been that the inflationary increase would be about 400 percent.

The basic market basket, made up solely of foodstuffs, went up by 1,826 percent, again according to the official government figures.

The minister, who has allowed the publication of statistics and tables containing contradictory data, infuriating this self-same Taylor and causing alarm and disillusionment among the still faithful donors to Nicaragua (for the countries of Eastern Europe, there is only one thing worse than robbery, and that is lying), said in January at meetings with the businessmen's chambers that inflation in 1989 would reach 400 percent altogether.

Just a month later, he was to state at meetings with the large labor unions and cooperatives that inflation for the year would reach 500 percent.

Changes of Opinion

Three months later, on 5 May, he announced, through the daily government newspaper BARRICADA, that inflation could no longer be estimated at 500 percent for 1989, but at 875 percent.

Around about June, the estimate given by Martinez Cuenca in this same newspaper was no longer merely absurd, but frankly irresponsible, since he is the man in charge of guiding the economy of a country faced with serious problems.

The minister estimated that the monthly inflation in June was between 12 and 20 percent, thus leaving a broad margin for error, but in reality it was 62 percent.

A disparity of this sort in economics is comparable to stating that for seasoning soup, one can equally well add a spoonful or 3 pounds of salt.

Successive Disasters

Martinez Cuenca, still not content with what he had done (and certainly not with the atmosphere of confidence that those in the know say is the first requirement for emerging from the economic morass which is pushing the people into greater poverty), again stated through BARRICADA on 1 August that in July, inflation had been 8.5 percent. However, his own indicators showed

that the real extent of inflation in that month was 32 percent above that of June—in other words, one cataclysm on top of another.

The cost of the basic market basket went up by 42 percent in the month of July alone.

Martinez Cuenca spoke in BARRICADA on 5 November of 1,500-percent inflation for the year, coming closer to the official figure for 28 December, which already had been calculated, announced, and taken as fact.

The "official" rate of inflation proved to be 1,689 percent, and food prices went up by 1,826 percent.

In the first 3 weeks of December, however, and it is very important to understand these last figures in order to calculate the spiral in the inflationary rate launched in recent days, and as we have all seen, at the beginning of the new year. [as published].

Warning Signals in 1990

The cost of the basic market basket has increased on three successive occasions by 8 percent per week.

This increase in itself is equivalent to 5,370 percent per year, a second bad record for the national economy.

The situation in 1990 looks much more alarming still. The sudden start points to a much speedier increase in prices than the comparative trend at this same period last year.

Here we must make the point that the prices noted are all from the official price lists, which very frequently differ from the real price list at the retail stores, groceries, and markets.

4,415 Times Its Value

In the table on this page, we show the inflationary increases for the principal foodstuffs, gasoline, and the dollar, revealing that in reality, average inflation ran at about 4,415 percent where the nine basic food products are concerned.

The figure for fuel, which is the moving force of the economy, was 3,437 percent.

This meant an inflationary decline in the currency rate of 4,047, at the official rate, and 929 at the exchange houses or on the parallel market, excluding any estimate for the dollar on the black market.

The sharp increases shown on this table, simplified as much as possible, appear like rockets fired upward, veritable inflationary explosions which could not be contained either by the government plans or by the "guerrilla operations." In one of these, in February of 1988, we saw demonetization such that overnight, the value of our currency dropped to one-thousandth of its previous value to become a "new cordoba," which is moving dangerously and out of control closer to the level of value against the dollar of its predecessor, the "old cordoba."

Sky-High Food Prices

In 1989, a pound of rice cost 200 cordobas, while by the end of the year, the price was 8,820. Beans went up from 400 to 13,000 cordobas per pound, meat (leg portion) from 898 to 40,000 per pound, while a tortilla cost 25 pesos in December of 1988, and 1,000 by the end of 1989.

In the course of last year, the price of a loaf of bread increased from 250 to 13,660 cordobas. The price of a dozen eggs went up from 620 to 30,000, and a liter of oil which cost 1,500 cordobas at the beginning of the year cost 72,500 at the end of 1989.

The price of a pound of sugar went up from 320 to 10,000 cordobas, and that of a pound of salt from 40 to 2,000.

Spiraling Dollar and Gasoline Prices

Gasoline (which now costs more than 70,000 cordobas) went up in the year just past from 1,900 to 67,200 cordobas per gallon.

The official value of the dollar in cordobas increased from 920 to 38,150 during the year, while the rate for the dollar on the parallel market increased from 4,625 cordobas to 47,600 during the same period.

Today's Prices

	Cordobas
One pound of rice	8,000
One pound of beans	12,000
One pound of meat	40,000
One tortilla	1,000
One loaf of bread	20,000
One dozen eggs	35,000
One liter of oil	110,000
One pound of sugar	12,000
One pound of salt	3,000
One gallon of gasoline	70,300
One dollar (official rate)	40,000
One dollar (parallel market rate)	50,000

(Figures compiled by Armengol Norori, January, 1990)

For the items marked with an asterisk below, the increase could not be shown on a graph on this page, as a graph six times larger would be needed.

	December 1988	December 1989	Increase
Rice	200	8,820	4,310%

Beans	400	13,000	3,150%
Meat (leg portion)*	898	40,000	4,354%
Tortilla	25	1,000	3,900%
Bread	250	13,666	5,366%
Eggs*	620	39,000	6,190%
Oil*	1,563	72,500	4,540%
Sugar	320	10,000	3,025%
Salt	40	2,000	4,900%
Gasoline*	1,900	67,200	3,437%
Dollar (official rate)*	920	38,?50	4,047%
Dollar (rate on the parallel market)*	4,625	47,600	929%

CIAV, Government, Contras Meet in Los Chinamos

PA2202000190 Managua Sistama Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] To initiate the operational phase of the Tela demobilization plan, the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification], government officials, and former contra leaders met for the first time yesterday with counterrevolutionary collaborators in Los Chinamos.

Santiago Murray, general coordinator of the CIAV, said the guarantees offered by the contra demobilization plan are a solution.

[Murray] "Besides the guaranteed freedom of individuals who wish to accept amnesty, there will be an entire program."

[Announcer] Meanwhile, former contra leader Rigoberto, who accepted amnesty one month ago, requested that the demobilization process be stepped up.

[Rigoberto] "If we see that a war no longer offers the prospect of victory, we should abandon it. We must abandon it to avoid causing more deaths and forming mountains of bodies. Instead, we should attempt to reach an understanding, to seek a civilized solution."

[Announcer] Residents of Los Chinamos asked questions of the CIAV members, government officials, and former contra leaders. At the conclusion of the event, [words indistinct] contra leader (Alza Lima), whom the foreign press believed to be dead. Shortly thereafter, former contra leaders Fernando, Rigoberto, Licenciado, and Dumas contacted (Alza Lima) by radio.

[Fernando] "We were gradually dying, while the politicians were (?secure) in Managua. Alfredo Cesar and all of them were (?secure) because certain changes are already being achieved. Meanwhile, we were dying off in the mountains."

[Announcer] Even though the contras seemed hesitant to accept the plan, members of the CIAV described this first meeting as positive. Meetings will also be held this week with contra collaborators in Region Five.

Ex-Contras Criticized for Seeking Demobilization

PA2102235090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0029 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan contras today disowned four former commanders who joined the Nicaraguan political process and accused them of promoting the demobilization of the rebels without demanding minimum security guarantees from the Sandinist government.

The contras accused the former commanders "Rigoberto", "Dimas", "Fernando", and "Licenciado" of carrying out a "campaign" to "persuade our commandos within Nicaragua to begin demoblization without the minimum guarantees that the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) has been demanding."

The rebels issued a communique emphasizing that the former commanders are not authorized, nor do they have the representation, "to carry out negotiations between the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) and the Nicaraguan Resistance commission headed by Commander 'Ruben.'"

The CIAV, composed of OAS and UN representatives, was created upon the request of the Central American Presidents to demobilize the anti-Sandinists.

The former commanders' "actions have included the CIAV representatives' presence," and, according to the RN, this could "hamper" the dialogue between this organization and the contras.

Although the rebel high command reproached its former fellow fighters's actions, it expressed its "concern" for their personal security and that of the CIAV officials who have penetrated "danger zones," given that the Sandinist Government's unilateral cease-fire has been suspended.

The "anti-Sandinists" also indicated that they have warned their troops to offer "maximum protection" to their former commanders and the CIAV authorities "according to their possibilities."

"Unfortunately, we are not intimidated by those who are in power and generate violence and war to impose their totalitarian projects," stated the contra high command.

The contras also insisted that they have not accepted their demobilization because minimum conditions do not prevail, and they emphasized that the Sandinists have violated human rights in Nicaragua.

The contras have also regretted not having observers in the electoral process that will end on 25 February in Nicaragua, given the "surrender conditions" demanded by the Sandinists.

"Commander Ruben" tried once more to achieve a representative role in the electoral process during his recent visit with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, an election observer, but failed given "the Sandinists' unbending attitude," the contras explained.

They asked the Nicaraguan people to vote for UNO [National Opposition Union] because "it is the only alternative for a change."

The commitment does not end by voting for UNO. "One must be on the alert so the least number of irregularities are committed, that an honest vote count is made, and that the results are not altered in the telegraph offices or enroute to the Superior Electoral Tribunals," the RN leadership stated.

CIAV Says Nation Has Fulfilled Tela Agreement

PA2202034190 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Julio Icaza, director of international organizations at the Foreign Ministry, has said the Nicaraguan Government hopes that the contra demobilization plan will be fulfilled during the first six months of this year. Icaza stated that the process will be hastened with yesterday's initiation of the operational phase.

According to Icaza, ever since the Tela agreement was signed, the Nicaraguan Government has made every effort to promptly set it in motion, particularly as pertains to the demobilization process. Meanwhile, Santiago Murray, general coordinator of the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification], said the Nicaraguan Government has been supportive of his organization.

[Murray] "I will repeat what I said earlier: President Callejas has been very categorical about the refugee settlements in Honduran territory. Therefore, I foresee no problem."

[Announcer] The CIAV is in charge of executing the Tela plan and of ensuring that the Nicaraguan Government complies with the guarantees it pledged to grant the demobilized Nicaraguans. The CIAV will do this in two phases: The first involves contacting contra leaders and the Nicaraguan and Honduran Governments; the second is operational.

[Icaza] "The CIAV will be in charge of distributing humanitarian aid while this process is under way."

[Announcer] The demobilized Nicaraguans will receive every civilian guarantee: food and shelter for three months and aid for housing construction. So far 14 counterrevolutionaries have accepted the plan.

[Icaza] "Many refugees have decided to accept the amnesty that the government unilaterally—and prior to the signing of these agreements—had granted. However, specifically within the Tela plan and under the guidance and guarantees that the CIAV is willing to provide and is providing, a total of 14 counterrevolutionaries have accepted amnesty."

[Announcer] The Tela plan was designed by the five Central American presidents to demobilize the counterrevolutionaries operating in Honduras in an orderly manner. Any demobilized refugee who surrenders his weapons to the CIAV will be considered for repatriation, the return to his hometown, or relocation to a third country.

According to CIAV reports, Nicaragua is the only country that has fulfilled the Tela agreement.

291 Former Armed Forces Members Pardoned

PA2102175290 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television in Spanish 0218 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] On 20 February, the National Assembly pardoned 291 former members of the Armed Forces who had committed minor crimes, but 660 former members of the Interior Ministry Army who are serving sentences for rape and murder remain in prison.

It was announced that the former military men, who will be released within the next few days, are between 17 and 30 years old. This is the second group of pardons approved by the legislative body at the request of President Daniel Ortega.

Panama

U.S. Forces Reportedly Search for Arms Cache

PA2202000090 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Feb 90 pp 1, 22

[Text] Boquete, 20 Jan—Large contingents of U.S. soldiers equipped with metal detectors combed many farms in the Chiriqui area this weekend, searching for weapons and ammunition that were surreptitiously buried by Noriega's friends a few days before the 20 December U.S. invasion. It is reported that a Danish ship coming from Cuba unloaded approximately 360 tons of weapons at the port of Pedregal in late November.

A U.S. Southern Command intelligence officer has told EL SIGLO that following reports from several people who had called to report they had seen strangers burying large boxes, the U.S. forces searched the farms of Carlos Castillo and Enrique Pretelt (the jewelry store owner) and others in Bambito and Rio Sereno. The source, which preferred to remain unidentified, said they had

found recently dug long trenches and large hastily covered holes in some of the farms, but no weapons were found.

The U.S. forces, which arrived in Blackhawk helicopter gunships, have now concentrated their efforts on the search for the people involved in these actions, because they could provide information on the boxes that were buried and hastily dug out during the days following the invasion. Meanwhile, Pretelt is in Florida accused of drug trafficking, but Carlos Castillo, Belgica Murgas de Castillo's husband, is still missing.

People living near Rio Sereno and neighboring communities have recently complained that heavily armed members of the Peace Battalion have been intimidating the peasants and stealing their chickens, pigs, and cattle—and no authority has heeded their complaints.

Arias Calderon on Presidency's Police Force

PA2202011490 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic will have its own police that will be independent from the Public Force, it was stated by Vice President and Minister of Government and Justice Ricardo Arias Calderon. He said this decision was recently approved during a cabinet meeting.

[Begin recording] [Arias Calderon; broadcast in progress] ....it became what was known as the Presidential Guard, a service that is independent from the National Police and the other Public Force services and will be directly under the Presidency Ministry. It will be called the Institutional Protection Service and will include the current National Guard. However, it will also include all the security personnel for the president of the Republic and the personalities and officials whom he appoints. This is another step forward in the process to separate the Public Force services. I might add that, historically speaking, coups d'etat occurred on two occasions when there were attempts to make changes. In this case, the change has been made upon request and a proposal from the National Police command. This reveals the change of attitude that is occurring within the Panamanian military.

[Reporter] Have the latest international events been favorable or unfavorable for the new government?

[Arias Calderon] Contacts were recently made with the Venezuelan and Peruvian Governments, and there is evidence that our relations with the two friendly countries will be normalized in a short time.

[Reporter] Are there any changes concerning the curfew?

[Arias Calderon] I believe this is the most popular measure ever adopted by the Ministry of Government and Justice, and the vast majority of women are extremely pleased with the curfew because they now know that their children are at home—and their husbands, too! [laughter and applause heard in background] [end recording]

Argentina

Army Reportedly on Alert Against Attacks

PY2102141390 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (DYN)—Army spokesmen have acknowledged that they have been instructed to be more alert in the barracks, ready to counter possible attacks on Army facilities, but denied they have orders to repress any resulting social outbreaks.

Former Army Major Ernesto Barreiro said on 19 February that Army Chief of Staff General Isidro Caceres had issued instructions to Army unit commanders to be ready to repress popular demonstrations ending in violence.

"High-ranking Army officers" told LA PRENSA that no such instructions exist, adding that Barreiro's statements were part of "a campaign of politically motivated rumors" designed to entice the population to react against the Army.

According to LA PRENSA, the sources "stressed that despite the alleged Army capability to repress violent protests, the executive branch can mobilize enough security and police forces to control almost any situation. The situation, however, would be different if 'fighters' capable of attacking Army installations participate in the demonstrations. In this case the president could order the Army to take action."

The sources said they do not contemplate any imminent social outbreak at this time apart from "small isolated incidents, such as an attack on some supermarket which does not cause much damage or injure people."

Riots, Attempted Looting of Markets in Rosario

PY2102183290 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Report by Nelson Racchia from Rosario]

[Excerpts] As of 0100 today [0300 GMT], there have been five attempts to loot various stores, and one supermarket was ransacked. At 0100, [words indistinct] some 100 people tried to loot a chicken farm and its store. Policemen swiftly appeared at the site and prevented the looting. At about 0130 a small supermarket owned by Jose Sorsoli was attacked by 30 or 40 people, who forced the entrance door and took large amounts of merchandise. Residents near the supermarket and policemen, however, made them return the merchandise.

The most serious incident occurred at 0230 at the corner of [name indistinct] Avenue and the [name indistinct] highway that links Rosario with the federal capital. There, some 50 people built a barricade with a metal desk and some tires and stopped a truck of the Villalonga Freight Company carrying spaghetti, flour, and other staples to [names indistinct] Army garrisons. Again, swift police action prevented the looting. Several people were arrested.

At 0240, there was a shoot-out at the Sailors' School in the port district. No one was injured. At 0245, a group of four or five people tried to set fire to a chicken farm in the southern part of the city. The only store almost entirely looted was a food store at the corner of [name indistinct] and Buenos Aires Streets. This attack occurred at 0415.

The last incident occurred at 0430 near the old road that formerly led to the federal capital. Some 50 people stopped a truck that was carrying (?cellulose paste). However, as soon as they saw policemen arriving, they fled in all directions without ransacking the truck.

Osmar Jimenez, secretary [words indistinct] in Santa Fe Province, held several meetings with provincial police, with the National Gendarmerie, with the Federal Police, and with the Naval Prefecture, [words indistinct] deploying some 4,000 members of the aforementioned forces. [passage indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Most stores, about 98 percent of them, are working normally. [passage indistinct]. Stores are working normally, especially in the southern part of the city where the incidents occurred early this morning. [passage omitted]

Unofficial sources believe the incidents early on 17 February, when two buses were burned, may be linked to today's incidents. The (?judicial secretary) does not believe so, although some people have reported that the incidents may be related. [passage omitted]

Rosario Mayor (?Caballero) reported that on 19 February Rosario authorities sent cables to President Carlos Menem, Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa, and Santa Fe Governor Victor Reviglio explaining that the situation at (?Villa) and in other districts was very serious; that foodstuffs and solidarity bonuses were urgently needed in Rosario. Very reliable sources of the Rosario Municipality reported today that no answer to the cables was received. They added, however, that the mayor contacted the provincial interior minister. [passage omitted]

Silvina Martinez Porta has reported that Governor Victor Reviglio met with Interior Minister Mera at 1200 today and the Ministry subsequently released a communique on the incidents.

In the communique, the incidents are considered isolated petty crimes that were promptly controlled by the Santa Fe Police Department, whose personnel arrested the leaders of the groups involved in the looting.

The document adds that, after listening to the details of the incidents reported by the Santa Fe governor, the Interior Ministry can assure that the situation is entirely normal. The incidents were not as serious as some rushed reports stated, the communique continues. The

Ministry attributes these reports to a psychological attempt to disturb public order and hinder government action aimed at assisting the most destitute sectors of society.

These are the terms of the communique released by the Interior Ministry a few minutes ago.

Governor Reviglio said the provincial police, supported by the federal police contingent, have the situation under control. He added that his government has not asked for any extra police assistance. [passage omitted]

Reviglio said he does not intend to declare a state of siege in the province because there are agitators everywhere. He added, however, that he believes the people who conducted these riots belong to leftist groups.

The governor admitted that the situation is very serious, but the Santa Fe government is solving, together with the rest of the national administration, the problems of all who are experiencing difficult times. [passage omitted]

More Looting; 'Tense Calm'

PY2102205890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1956 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Rosario, 21 Feb (NA)—Residents of northern Rosario near Casiano Casas and Rondeau Avenues have reported that there has been renewed looting at several markets since about 1800. The police have been ordered to prevent such actions and they acted immediately.

There are also reports of isolated looting in other parts of the city this afternoon amid a tense calm after this morning's disturbances.

After a meeting between supermarket owners and security officials, it was reported that only food is being looted. Police sources said it is still impossible to establish how widespread the looting is. It is presumed that the situation is by no means out of control.

Events Only in Rosario

PY2202023690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2338 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (TELAM)—The Interior Ministry tonight described the events in Rosario as "criminal actions" and made it clear that they are restricted to that city while the situation in the rest of Santa Fe Province and throughout the country "is absolutely normal."

The Interior Ministry communique notes that "public order is being guaranteed by the provincial authorities" but that, "nevertheless, at their request, the national government has ordered preventive support from federal police, national gendarmerie, and naval prefecture forces."

The Interior Ministry communique adds that, according "to the descriptions of the events reported by the Santa Fe government, it is clear that the actions were carried out by a small group of previously organized persons. The different actions responded to a preestablished plan. The participants needed the support of the population and they failed in their attempt."

Ambassador to UK Comments on Sovereignty Issue

PY2202110290 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2144 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (DYN)—Mario Campora, the newly appointed Argentine Ambassador to Great Britain, today stressed that Argentina must demand respect for its rights over the Malvinas islands. He said that "before the Madrid negotiations, Argentina stated in a clause on the sovereignty issue that no accord reached over reestablishing relations" would imply relinquishing any of its sovereign rights over the archipelago." [quotation mark as received]

The Argentine Government will ask the United Kingdom to accept Campora as its ambassador this week. Campora said at the Foreign Ministry that "we know we have placed our rights on hold. These rights have never been placed at a level lower than the resumption of diplomatic relations."

The new ambassador thus reiterated his position on the sovereignty issue. This insistence on the subject has somehow separated him from Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo's position and has placed him among the "hawks" at the ministry with Foreign Policy Secretary Archibaldo Lanus.

Asked if he was going to fight for the issue of Argentine sovereignty over the islands from his position in London, Campora said: "The defense of our national interest in the Malvinas Islands is a matter of highest international policy. For the time being it is being handled by President Menem and Cavallo."

Regarding the recent agreements with the United Kingdom, the new ambassador said that "trade will surpass $500 million this year and next year following the recent negotiation."

Campora added: "We will reach very high levels of trade, perhaps surpassing levels before the 1982 war."

Asked if he had already designated his assistants, Campora said that the agreements were too recent and that he has not yet had time to think about them.

Syrian TV Interviews President Carlos Menem

JN2102221890 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Interview with Argentine President Carlos Menem by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded; in Spanish with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] [Reporter] Your Excellency, on behalf of Syrian Arab television, we greet you and we are pleased to begin this interview with the following question: What are your most significant views regarding Argentina's progress as sought by the Argentine people and by you?

[Menem] On behalf of the Argentine people and my own behalf, I would like to thank you for this greeting. I would like also to send my heartfelt greetings to Syria—the government and the people—hoping they will proceed toward progress and genuine social justice for everyone and that government resources will always be there for the people.

Argentina has begun a production revolution. It is a country rich in human and food potential, raw materials, and resources. We are now working to explore these resources and to invigorate these capabilities to place Argentina in a prominent position in the community of nations. However, we face many difficulties.

[Reporter] There are old ties of cooperation and kinship between the Syrian Arab people and the Argentine people. The Arabs built a civilization in Spain hundreds of years ago. How do you view the possibility of restoring these ties between the two peoples in Syria and Argentina?

[Menem] I believe relations between the two countries have always been good, and they should be better. For this purpose, I sent my brother, Munir Menem, to be the ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic, in addition to other matters. I believe he is the right person to make relations between Syria and Argentina stronger and more comprehensive, not only in trade and industrial exchange but also in the cultural and political areas.

[Reporter] Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad is undertaking a conspicuous experiment in building modern Syria. Are you acquainted with this experiment? And what is your assessment of it?

[Menem] I visited Syria when I was the candidate of the Justicialist Party. I felt the development and progress there. There is wide scope for work there and here in Argentina. I had the great honor of speaking for three hours with his excellency the president of the Syrian Arab Republic. I came out fully convinced and very impressed by the great and splendid objectives he is achieving as the leader of the Syrian Arab people to turn Syria into a land of progress and peace.

[Reporter] Your presence at the Nonaligned summit conference in Belgrade played an important role in making the summit a success. Do you believe that the nonaligned countries can solve the problems of the so-called Third World countries?

[Menem] I believe that the nonaligned countries are relentlessly fighting to achieve a greater balance among all world countries; that is, a balance in the exchange of technology and production to increase production and for the sake of the growth of all peoples. Third World countries are advancing step by step toward these objectives. Argentina is among these nonaligned countries. We are not satisfied with this. We hope that peace will be achieved in all areas affected by war. We are fully aware that war is a serious obstacle to the people's hopes and aspirations for prosperity.

[Reporter] The world seems to be moving toward a new model of world blocs. In your opinion, is it possible to establish a form of economic cooperation among the Latin American states, particularly as several political treaties already bind these states to one another. Moreover, do you intend to form a Latin American common market? Have any efforts been made in this direction?

[Menem] The unity of Latin America is one of the most sublime slogans upheld by the Republic of Argentina. Work in this direction has been very intensive. Several attempts to achieve this objective have become experiences from which to learn. We have the ALADI [Latin American Integration Association], which succeeded the Latin American Free Trade Association, and SELA [The Latin American Economic System]. The groupings that have been established are unmistakably proceeding toward comprehensive integration among the Latin American countries; that is, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean states, and South America. However, there is a trend pushing us toward continental unity so that America, all of America, can be turned into one bloc. Once such objective is achieved: there will be efforts toward internationalism. This is one of the ambitious objectives spelled out by General Peron.

[Reporter] With the conclusion of this interview, Your Excellency the president, we would like to thank you again. We would also like to give you the chance to speak directly to those who are watching Syrian Arab television.

[Menem] To talk about Syria is to talk about my original homeland. Everybody knows here in Argentina, in Syria, and throughout the world that I was born to Syrian immigrant parents. I am proud of being born on Argentine territory. Similarly, I am proud of being the son of Syrians. I would like to repeat what I said to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic. I told him: Blood does not turn into water. Argentine as well as Arab blood is running in my veins. My father was destined to migrate from Syria to Argentina and to raise his family there—a family nurtured by feelings of belonging to this country. These feelings have deep roots extending into Syria. These feelings are the best homage that can be paid to my original homeland.

Radical Party's Angeloz Offered Cabinet Post

PY2102224490 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Feb 90 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—Cordoba Governor and former Radical presidential candidate Eduardo Angeloz will next week answer an offer from President Carlos Menem

to enter his cabinet because he prefers to wait until ex-President and Radical Party chairman Raul Alfonsin returns from abroad.

Angeloz held a lengthy meeting yesterday with his key advisers to analyze the offer. Sources underlined that "the United States government would approve the change."

In turn, leaders of the Justicialist Party and the Democratic Centre Union (UCeDe) and Peronist trade union leader Armando Cavalieri expressed their support for the inclusion of Angeloz in the government.

Justicialist Party chairman Antonio Cafiero yesterday expressed support for the possible inclusion of Angeloz in the government although he admitted that the move could produce a big change in the cabinet.

Deputy Jorge Yoma (Justicialist-La Rioja) considered the incorporation of Angeloz "could be a very positive step towards a coalition cabinet for emerging from this crisis" while Cavalieri maintained that it "could be the most important political event in a long time and the only one which can give the government back its lost credibility." Cavalieri described Angeloz as "a hero, because he managed to obtain six million votes after the sorry Alfonsin administration."

However, Presidential Chief-of-Staff Alberto Kohan was surprised by the news and, six days after the Menem-Angeloz meeting when the offer was reportedly made, said he knew nothing about it. Kohan's post is precisely one of the key administration positions the Angeloz sector within the Radical Party wishes to take if the agreement is reached. [passage omitted]

Public Works Ministry Structure To Be Reduced

PY2102120590 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Public Works and Services Minister Roberto Dromi has announced that the structure of his ministry will be reduced by 52 percent. This is what the minister said:

[Begin Dromi Recording] The executive branch, through Decree No. 334 issued today, has decided to reduce the operational structure of the Public Works and Services Ministry by 52 percent. This in turn will reduce the number of secretariats and undersecretariats.

Until now the ministry's activities and administration were handled by seven state secretariats and 18 undersecretariats. These will be reduced to four secretariats and eight undersecretariats. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Minister Dromi said that the following secretariats will continue: the Energy, Transportation, Public Works, and Public Services secretariats. Under the Public Services secretariat are the Communications undersecretariat and the Water Resources undersecretariat.

Dromi said that the personnel of the secretariats and undersecretariats that have been eliminated will not be dismissed. They will be assigned to other sectors. [passage omitted].

Police Break Up Gang Linked to Cali Cartel

PY2102113790 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1346 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (DYN)—It has been officially reported that the police today broke up a huge organization linked to the Colombian Cali Cartel. This is the first operation in Argentina against money laundering. The gang was composed of four Argentines, two Spanish citizens, and a Colombian woman.

The group of Argentines made several trips to Spain, Colombia, and Uruguay. In the past few months they had improved their standard of living by purchasing vehicles and jewels and stayed at luxury hotels. This led personnel of the Police Dangerous Drug Superintendency to start an investigation.

The gang used to visit a Colombian woman called Zulema Torres, alias Lucy, in Montevideo. Torres is a truck dealer and a representative of the Cali Cartel who laundered drug-trade money in Uruguayan banks.

The Argentines took the drug to Spain. They have been identified by the police as Luis Tome, Alejandro Guido Canda, Sergio Arab, and Mariano Cardenas.

The Spanish police were alerted because on 1 February a drug shipment was reportedly to have been sent to Las Palmas via Madrid aboard a commercial flight.

Spanish citizens Juan Estevez Achue and Maria de la Luz Hatchuell Rodriguez were arrested during an operation conducted at the Barajas airport and 28 kg of cocaine hidden in the drug traffickers' suitcases were seized.

One of the shipments, consisting of 15 kg of pure cocaine, was sold in Madrid for 65 million pesetas, the equivalent of $500,000.

The detainees were charged with violating Law 23,737 and were placed at the disposal of Judge Enrique Lotero.

Embalse Nuclear Power Plant Out of Service

PY2002211790 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1118 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Cordoba, 19 Feb (TELAM)—According to a report released by Embalse nuclear power plant sources, the plant went out of service at noon yesterday because of a technical problem and an assessment was made this morning regarding when the plant would become operational again. According to the sources, the problem was a valve in the primary system, "which forced us to halt operations at the power plant to assess the damage."

The sources said that the measures the professional staff and employees of the Villa Maria regional trade union of light and power workers are carrying out have nothing to do with the normal operation of the power plant. The light and power workers held four-hour strikes yesterday, demanding salary hikes and new terms, while operations and security technicians worked normally.

The fact that the Embalse power plant went out of service is causing a noticeable drop in the national power network. The sources described the problem that caused the stoppage as "common to any power plant of this type."

Bolivia

Paz Denies Reported U.S. Plan To Use Insects

PY2102134290 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] President Paz Zamora has categorically denied journalistic rumors of a U.S. plan to release insects in the country to eat the coca crops. These are mere speculation and by no means an official U.S. Government stand, President Paz stated.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] By no means; the use of insects is not practicable. Moreover, we were careful to avoid the inclusion of any such subjects for discussion in our Cartagena agenda. No; this is absolutely untrue. [end recording]

According to reports released by international news agencies, the U.S. Administration reportedly intends to launch insects, specifically the white moth [polilla blanca], to eat up the coca crops. These insects reportedly would be released in the Chapare and other coca-producing regions of Bolivia.

President Paz Zamora stated that the agreements signed in Cartagena by the four countries involved in the struggle against drug trafficking are clear and exact. This report, therefore, must be mere speculation. Commenting further on this subject with a good sense of humor the president stated:

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] The reporter who released this report [words indistinct]. The government's opinion is that a reporter can write anything on the subject, but by no means will it represent the opinion of President Paz Zamora. Anyway, if the caterpillars, as these insects are called, are sent to us, I will send them the (perpinto) from Tarija. [laughs] [end recording]

The (perpinto) is an insect, similar to the butterfly, from the valleys that causes serious damage to fruit production, forcing the peasants to adopt preventive measures against these insects.

Iturralde Speaks at UN on Antidrug Campaign

PY2102165590 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde yesterday stated at the UN special session on drugs that the antidrug struggle must be transferred to the field of action now that the ways to combat the scourge have been established at the Cartagena summit.

No solution will work without resources or investments, especially in those countries harassed by critical poverty and continuous underdevelopment, he said.

According to reports received by our teleprinter service, the foreign minister stressed the strong economic implications of the coca crop and the cost of replacing it.

According to Iturralde's speech, first disseminated in Cartagena where the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and the United States held a summit conference, an important step was taken when a common and overall strategy in the struggle against drug trafficking was adopted.

The Bolivian foreign minister added that now we must begin a new stage in the field of action, demanded by the (?international community) as an effective answer to the proposal by the Cartagena summit.

Iturralde added that new alternatives are being developed. He said that prohibition and reduction of consumption cannot be treated separately because they are factors related to the same problem [passage indistinct].

Brazil

President Dedicates Alcantara Launch Center

PY2202011990 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] President Sarney today dedicated Brazil's first satellite launch center in Alcantara, Maranhao State. Alcantara's only attraction before today was the ruins of a 17th-century architectural structure, but President Sarney has transformed this small city of 3,000 inhabitants, located 22 km from Sao Luis, into Brazil's most important rocket launch center.

A Sonda-2 rocket, a Brazilian-made experimental rocket, was launched to dedicate the center. The Sonda-2 rocket is 4.1 meters long and 30 cm in diameter; it weighs 600 kg. The rocket climbed 110 km and then fell into the sea—all in three minutes.

With this launch of the Sonda-2 rocket, President Sarney has consolidated the Brazilian space mission. Brazil is now in a position to launch its own rockets and satellites, and all of them will be launched from here, the Alcantara launch center.

[Begin Sarney recording] Because of its location, Alcantara will be one of the world's main centers. As I

have said in the past, we have an exceptional advantage here because, as a result of the earth's rotation, a launch will consume about 20 percent less fuel than anywhere else in the world. This will allow us to compete on that closed world market, the space industry market, at a great advantage. [end recording]

Navy Official on Nuclear Submarine Program

PY2102143590 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Report by Alana Gandra from Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] The Navy is developing a program that foresees the construction of the first Brazilian nuclear submarine before the year 2000. Rear Admiral Ernani Goulart Fortuna, the commander of the First Naval District, explained that the program depends on a political decision.

[Begin Fortuna recording] This program depends on a political decision. The Navy operates strictly within the budget assigned to it by Congressional vote and approval. Within this budget, we certainly do not [word indistinct] our naval construction program. The speed with which this program develops depends on the budget. [end recording]

For this year, the program foresees the construction of four Inhauma-class corvettes, one Navy tanker, one polar ship to ensure the Brazilian presence in the Antarctic—the contract for the construction of which has yet to be signed, two patrol boats, and four patrol launches.

Four U.S. destroyers to replace the old World War II torpedo boats, one Ceara combat vehicle landing craft, and the KL-class Tupi submarine, which has arrived from Germany [not further identified] will be added to this fleet.

The Navy will commission the second powered floating dock in December, which will give the Marine Corps special mobility.

Ore-for-Drugs Deal in Rondonia Investigated

PY2102201690 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Feb 90 p 10

[Report by special correspondent Ascanio Seleme]

[Excerpt] Porto Velho—Despite protests by local townspeople, the federal police yesterday began investigating 27 enterprises operating in the Bom Futuro mines in Rondonia. These enterprises have been accused of participating in cassiterite smuggling and cocaine trafficking since the mines opened in 1987. Preliminary studies by the federal police and the National Department of Mineral Production (DNPM) show that 40 percent of the ore extracted in Bom Futuro is sent to Bolivia, Peru, and Mexico. According to the results of the investigations, each month some 200 tons of cassiterite are exchanged for cocaine in Rondonia, on the Bolivian border.

This investigation has been requested by a technical commission composed of DNPM officials, federal police agents, and representatives of the Brazilian Institute for Environmental Affairs and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) and the Federal Revenues Secretariat. This commission has been in Rondonia since 13 February to investigate reports on irregularities in the mining sector. Ovidio Martins de Araujo, coordinator of the commission, yesterday stated that if the ore smuggling is not controlled, more than $500 million (12 billion new cruzados at the official exchange rate) of export revenues will be lost this year. Last year, some $150 million (3.6 billion new cruzados at the official exchange rate) worth of cassiterite left the country without customs duties being paid. [passage omitted]

Chile

Errazuriz Denies Bolivian Charges on Lauca River

PY2202000190 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Report by Veronica Munoz from the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has said there is no new construction on or diversion of the Lauca River, as Bolivia has claimed. Errazuriz said that the reports to this effect are groundless and that the Bolivian Government has not filed any official petition in this regard.

Foreign Minister Errazuriz said no official petition has been filed because there is no evidence that could transform this into a dispute. Errazuriz pointed out that Chile is using the Lauca River to provide water for the Chapiquina hydroelectric power plant and is subsequently using the same water to irrigate the Azapa Valley. All this is being done in accordance with international law, Errazuriz added.

Incoming Government on Chain-of-Command Issue

PY2102171890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Enrique Correa, government secretary general-designate, has responded to a declaration made by President Augusto Pinochet during his recent tour that when he assumes the post of Army commander in chief, he will deal only with the nation's president because the defense minister has only administrative functions.

The government secretary general-designate responded by saying:

[Begin Correa recording] Article 90, Paragraph One of the Constitution now in force defines the Armed Forces and the Forces of Order and Security in this way: quote—forces subordinated to the ministry responsible for national defense—unquote. In exactly the same way, this concept is reiterated in the last paragraph of Article

90 in these words: quote—the Armed Forces subordinated to the ministry responsible for national defense are, moreover, professional, subject to hierarchy, and disciplined—unquote.

The 1976 national Defense Ministry organization regulations, to be fully in force 11 March, clearly establish that the Armed Forces and Forces of Order are subordinate to the defense minister as their direct superior. [end recording]

Enrique Correa's declaration adds that the constitutional and legal documents are absolutely clear and do not admit any interpretation. The future government affirms that it will maintain and abide by these norms in its relations with the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces, trusting that everyone's respect for the law will make it possible to carry on those relations in harmony, with a spirit of institutional cooperation.

This is all from the small La Moneda Palace, office of President-elect Patricio Aylwin.

Defense Minister Responds

PY2102230390 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal Prado, national defense minister, has responded to remarks by officials of the incoming government on the relationship that will exist between the Armed Forces and the future defense minister.

The national defense minister said that Article 24 of the Constitution entrusts government and state administration to the president of the Republic, tasks in which, as also provided in the Constitution, he has the close and direct cooperation of the ministers of state in their respective sectors. Carvajal noted that, according to the Constitution, it follows that the position of chief of state is held by the president of the Republic.

Carvajal added that the Armed Forces and the forces of order and public security are fundamental state organizations that, as such, must serve to achieve the state's lofty goals. For the reasons I have just mentioned, he said, it would be difficult to achieve these goals if there is another chain of command beyond the appropriate one with the chief of state.

[Begin Carvajal recording] The relationship between the national defense institutions and the president of the Republic is maintained through the ministry in charge of this sector. Therefore there is a merely administrative subordination of the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and the director general of the Carabineros to the National Defense Ministry, as these authorities are the commanding chiefs of the respective national defense institutions.

However, in keeping with an expeditious administration of the national defense area, this does not prevent the president of the Republic from dealing directly with the commanders in chief of each branch of the Armed Forces or with the director general of the Carabineros, as the case may be.

It is not otherwise possible to understand that the institutional commanders in chief and the director general of the Carabineros can be subordinated to the national defense minister. The statements that have been made reflect purely military relations in which the chain-of-command principle, involving rank, seniority, and position held, can be applied. [end recording]

Carvajal added that any conclusion contrary to this would not permit the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces or the director general of the Carabineros to act with the proper independence within the National Security Council.

Carvajal indicated that some declarations made by the officials of the future government include arguments based on legal and regulatory documents that are currently in the process of being amended to adjust them to the norms of the constitutional Armed Forces organizational law that was recently approved by the Constitutional Court and which will soon be promulgated.

Carvajal noted that any provision contained in any ordinary law, regulation, or decree establishing a different relationship between the national defense commanders in chief and the defense minister must be understood as tacitly abrogated by virtue of the Republic's Constitution and the aforementioned organizational law.

Carvajal said the government regrets that the tone of these declarations, made by those who will discharge important public duties in the next government, tends to confuse public opinion on very clear principles and norms.

Carvajal concluded by pointing out that he trusts these declarations will not be repeated for the good of the productive relationship that must exist among the state's main authorities to ensure an honest and effective performance of the democratic system.

Colombia

DAS Chief on Election Security, Murder Probe

PA2102222490 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Report by Gloria Ortega on statements by Director of the Administrative Department of Security, DAS, General Miguel Maza Marquez in Bogota on 21 February]

[Text] [Ortega] During a meeting of DAS leaders today in Bogota, DAS Director General Miguel Maza Marquez announced that the national government is studying a number of special measures to guarantee normalcy during the 11 March elections and to halt a campaign,

which urges citizens not to vote, being implemented by the ELN [National Liberation Army] in certain areas of the country:

[Begin recording] [Maza] We will visit those places. I believe this weekened we will go there to assess the needs of those areas to ensure better assistance on the part of the state.

[Ortega] Specifically where?

[Maza] We are confronting problems in southern Bolivar and Cesar Departments, a large sector of northern and southern Santander Department, and in Sucre, Cordoba, and Cauca Departments; in general, in all the places where this movement with the slogan urging people not to vote has appeared. [end recording]

[Ortega] Gen. Maza did not rule out that a curfew might be decreed and security forces increased even before election day in some of those areas. The DAS director also commented on the ongoing investigation related to the assassination of senator and former presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento. He said that although more information is needed, security and judicial organizations have made great process.

[Begin Maza recording] Over the past few days, we have collected information that we had expected in the wake of the death of El Mexicano [the late drug chief Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha], because many of the individuals who know the details of what happened are now approaching DAS. [end recording]

[Ortega] Finally, Gen. Maza ruled out any link between the perpetrators of the attacks against the Avianca plane and the DAS, the murder of people found in the Dona Juana dump, and the Galan assassination.

Decree Establishes Prohibitions During Elections

PA2202041090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] In Bogota today, the national government announced some bans that will be in effect prior to and after the 11 March and 27 May elections.

The executive branch, through Decree No. 410, dated today, has banned throughout the country parades, rallies, and political demonstrations in public places 5-17 March and from 21 May to 2 June. The decree states that during the same periods of time, the media will be banned from broadcasting programs, conferences, speeches, round tables, or political commentary programs. However, radio stations will be allowed to advertise electoral political spots urging voters to vote for a specific political group.

The decree forbids the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages from 1800 on 10 March to 0600 on 12 March, when the legislative elections will take place. This prohibition will also be in effect during the presidential elections from 1800 on 26 May to 0600 on 28 May.

The decree adds that the permits to bear arms will be suspended 5-17 March and from 21 May to 2 June throughout the country, except for special permits granted by brigade, naval, and Air Force commanders and the Unified Southern Command.

Authorities Search for ELN Guerrilla Porras

PA2102221390 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Four members of the Colombian Attorney General's Office are trying to locate ELN [Army of National Liberation] guerrilla Juan Fernando Porras in Santander Department. The ELN is demanding Porras' return in exchange for the release of Former Governor Jorge Sedano Gonzalez.

The Colombian Army denied detaining the ELN guerrilla. Meanwhile, the police have stated that Porras is charged with planning and leading terrorist actions in Santander Department.

This is a composite sketch of Juan Fernando Porras Martinez, the guerrilla whose return the ELN is demanding in exchange for the release of Senator Jorge Sedano Gonzalez.

Authorities do not have any pictures of the guerrilla who, according to the ELN, disappeared in a car on 5 February in the area of Carrera No. 33 and 51st Street in the city of Santander.

Juan Fernando Porras Martinez is known by the guerrillas as Gabriel. The Colombian authorities have charged him with planning and leading terrorist actions as the leader of the ELN's Diego Cristobal Uribe Regional Commando stationed in Cucuta and Bucaramanga.

The return of Senator Sedano Gonzalez' depends on the release of Porras Martinez, who according to the ELN, is in the hands of Colombian military authorities. However, the Armed Forces in the northeastern part of the country have denied that version.

A commission of the Attorney General's Office has been unsuccessfully trying to discover Porras' whereabouts while human rights organizations are trying to mediate the release of the Santander senator.

For the release of Senator Sedano, the ELN has also demanded a reply from Former Colombian President Misael Pastrana, to whom they sent a letter asking that he make statements concerning the dirty war, those who have disappeared, and the actions that should be taken against those who are intellectually and physically responsible for torture, murder, and disappearances in Colombia.

In response to the ELN's message, yesterday Colombian Social Conservative statesman Pastrana not only condemned these forms of violence but also those carried out to lower the people's spirits and morale. He

described the so-called dirty war as absurd and asserted that no one has a right to torture, murder, and cause the disappearance of other people in Colombia.

3 ELN Members, Financial Chief Captured

PA2202125490 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1219 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The Colombian authorities have captured three Army of National Liberation [ELN] guerrillas in La Guajira Department, arrested an ELN finance chief in La Arauca, and foiled a terrorist attack in Bolivar Department.

According to the official report, an Army patrol captured three rebels and seized weapons and ammunition during a search operation in Juan del Cesar Municipality in La Guajira Department. Also, the explosives unit of the National Police defused two dynamite charges which had been placed on a power tower in Cartagena by the ELN.

Meanwhile, troops from the 2d National Army Division captured the finance chief of the ELN's Domingo Lain Front in La Arauca. This individual had weapons and documents that contained terrorist plans.

ELN Kills Policeman, Peasants in New Violence

PA2102143790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1211 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Vallelupar—In the past few hours, the so-called Camilist Union Army of National Liberation (UC-ELN) murdered a police inspector and two of his brothers, who were peasants. The inspector and his brothers were murdered by the UC-ELN who accused them of being Army and police informers. The triple crime occurred on the El Limoncito path, in Guachica Municipality, southern Cesar Department. A police spokesman said that the rebels had identified themselves as UC-ELN members. These three new victims of the rebel offensive were taken by force from their homes before they were killed. The murdered inspector was identified as Gustavo Ropero Navarro, 22, from Guachica. His brothers were identified as Mariano and Felix Ropero Navarro, 26 and 24, respectively. After the crime, the rebels fled into the eastern mountain range. The ELN has begun a new wave of violence in the past hours. It has murdered three peasants in Guachicono, southern Cauca Department; two in Antioquia; and three in Cordoba. These people were killed after being accused by the ELN of being informants.

Paraguay

Joint Working Group With Brazil Installed

PY2102152290 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Feb 90 p 19

[Excerpts] A Paraguayan-Brazilian working group has been officially inaugurated. Its primary goal is to coordinate efforts aimed at promoting cooperation in various sectors of the national economy. This working group reviewed priorities for the economic and social development program such as agriculture, livestock, industry (medium- and small-sized enterprises), transportation, energy, and the environment.

Top executives of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency [Agencia Brasilena de Cooperacion] have visited Asuncion with the primary goal of implementing an agreement on technical cooperation signed between Paraguay and Brazil in 1987, an agreement expanded by a supplementary agreement signed during President Jose Sarney's visit to our country.

The Brazilian Cooperation Agency is an institution that is subordinate to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry. President-elect Fernando Collor has decided to promote it, with the goal of implementing its program of cooperation with other countries in the world.

The Brazilian mission contacted several government institutions in our country, holding talks on future cooperation in specific fields. Brazilian mission members met with the Technical Planning Secretariat on the priorities of the economic and social program devised by the Technical Planning Secretariat.

In addition, the Brazilian mission members held talks with Fernando Ugarte Ramirez, president of the National Council for Rural Development [Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Rural] (CONCODER). They discussed issues related to the relocation [reubicacion] of landless peasants as well as the agro-industrial development of border areas.

The inauguration of the Paraguayan-Brazilian working group, created by a supplementary agreement signed by the two governments on 10 November 1989, was held at the Foreign Ministry.

During the inauguration ceremony, the working group members emphasized the need to prioritize the integration and joint development of our countries. They agreed to coordinate cooperation efforts in various sectors, including agriculture, livestock, industry—with emphasis on development of small and medium-sized enterprises—transportation, electrical power, and the environment. They also agreed on actions to support border communities. [passage omitted]

The Paraguayan-Brazilian working group will meet again in March 1990 to implement the first negotiations conducted in our country.

The meeting will be held in mid-March in Brasilia after the inauguration of President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello.

Bank President Explains 1989 Monetary Expansion

PY2102171190 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 20 Feb 90 p 11

[Text] Central Bank President Crispiniano Sandoval has confirmed information reported by ULTIMA HORA that the means of payment (monetizacion) expanded by 77.0 percent in 1989, against 55.0 percent in 1987 and 41.3 percent in 1988. He also explained that the expansion was caused by the increase in credits to the productive sector through loans at discount rates granted to the private banking system and because the Central Bank purchased foreign currency to increase its international reserves.

Sandoval said that "basically, the expansion was caused by the disbursement of a larger volume of credits through the line of loans at discount rates, and by the need to restore the country's international reserves position. The public sector has not been granted credits, and the subsidies that used to be granted to the public sector on the sale of dollars at less than the free exchange rate were eliminated in February 1989. These circumstances led to a strong expansion of the means of payments, an expansion that was dampened by an important increase in the financial balance of the public sector."

Asked why the monetary expansion was lower in 1987 and 1988 despite the fact that large volumes of credits were then granted to the public sector and discount-rate loans were continuously used to meet the needs of cotton and soybean production, the Central Bank president replied: "It should be noted that credits to the productive sector were smaller because the harvests were smaller. We should not forget that the volume of production increased last year and, consequently, so did the volume of discount-rate loans."

The Central Bank president added: "We have had monetary expansion in previous years, mainly because of subsidies on the sale of dollars to the public sector and credits extended to the public sector to finance its deficit. This was directly translated into inflationary pressure, a situation we did not have last year. Monetary expansion in 1989 can mainly be traced to the discount-rate loans and to the purchase of dollars in the free market to stabilize the exchange rate and restore our international reserves position."

Answering a question about a three-percent reduction in the volume of credits to the public sector, Crispiniano Sandoval explained that "the public sector is making net amortizations, that is, paying back loans without applying for new credits. This brings about an overall reduction in credits to the public sector. It should also be remembered that the public sector's financial deposits have increased, thus showing a net reduction in credits to the public sector."

The Central Bank president said finally that credits granted to the productive sector, particularly for cotton and soybean production, increased by 56.5 in 1989.

PRF Youth to Discuss, Repudiate Quayle Visit

PY2102172190 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 22 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] A meeting sponsored by the youth movement of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] and other social organizations will be held at the People's House [PRF headquarters] at 1400 GMT today. This meeting will be held to discuss the upcoming visit to Paraguay of U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle.

The youth movement of the PRF states that the objective of this meeting is to plan a campaign that will be carried out during the U.S. vice president's visit to Paraguay. This campaign will endeavor to show the people of the Third World how "imperialism" is oppressing and exploiting us.

The note adds that during this meeting they will also plan a rally to repudiate the visit of the representative of George Bush's administration to Paraguay. They say that the Americans have always portrayed themselves as democrats and yet they have always exploited the Latin American nations in their drive to strengthen their economic policy at the expense of the poor countries by increasing our debts so they can continue to dominate us.

Peru

Larco Cox Addresses Drug Issue in UN Speech

PY2102210890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Speech by Council of Ministers President Guillermo Larco Cox at the United Nations; date not given—recorded]

We have learned that the approach was based on a simplistic diagnosis and that the answer has been essentially repressive, ignoring the socioeconomic conditions that promote the production, sale, and consumption of drugs.

The measures have been essentially punitive and have sought to repress increasing criminality. No progress seems to have been made despite several years of enforcing increasingly stronger penalties and intensifying police action.

But a change has just taken place: The principle of shared responsibility has been recognized. Without ignoring our own responsibility as producers, it is well known that products are manufactured to meet an existing demand. Additionally, the illegal drug business demands the use of chemicals and the operation of a financial system for laundering the illegal profits made in consuming countries. This has expanded the responsibility of all the parties involved.

Those of us who are trapped by underdevelopment and who receive a very small part of the money generated by drug trafficking cannot be compared to those who create and maintain the levels of demand that encourage this activity and generate one of the most important mechanisms for accumulating financial resources. As compensation we must demand significant support which should be proportional to our development.

Along with these principles, we also reiterate our position that an all-out war against drug trafficking must respect international law, especially as it concerns sovereignty, territorial integrity, and nonintervention.

If these principles are not respected, the fight against drug trafficking will take an incorrect course, its ethical background will be undermined, its objectives will be missed, and it will become an instrument for the enforcement of a policy of power and interventionism which is unacceptable in a world that is reaching accord and understanding.

As stated in Resolution 44-142, the principle of shared responsibility in the international community is the foundation of an all-out war against drug trafficking. It is therefore high time to realize that the problem of drug trafficking essentially entails a large monopoly of the market. According to the secretary general's annual report, the financial value of the drug business surpasses that of world oil transactions. It is second only to the weapons trade.

Faithful to our objective here, we should realistically examine all the options or combinations of options that can assure our victory over drug trafficking. We should achieve this victory through direct rather than indirect action against the foundations of the drug business.

If drug traffickers are making large profits, then the theoretical repression of its leaders, the hypothetical eradication of farms, or the adoption of a military approach to the issue will fail. In fact, this approach will only serve to promote rapid replacement in cartel leaderships, the transfer and expansion of current illegal farms, and an increase in the financial cost of solving the problem.

We trust that the international community will understand that the key to the problem is not in the eradication of crops, just as it has admitted that increased demand will aggravate the problem. We trust that the international community will understand the solution to the production of the coca leaf is to be found only in alternative economic development which should be oriented toward the replacement of coca farms.

It is necessary to implement the multilateral proposals outlined in the Andean countries' accord to obtain the necessary cooperation for solving the serious socioeconomic problems affecting the economies of these countries.

Vargas Llosa Discussions With Brazil's Collor

PY2102220290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0027 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Brasilia, 20 Feb (EFE)—Defending a regional integration process "opened" to the world, Peruvian writer and presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa said here today that Latin American integration based on the replacement of imports has [word indistinct].

The writer, who had lunch with Brazilian President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello, said: "Economic nationalism has been catastrophic." During the lunch Collor and Vargas Llosa discussed regional issues and matters of bilateral interest.

Vargas Llosa, who is the Democratic Front (Fredemo) candidate in the elections to be held on 8 April, held a news conference after meeting with Collor, who will be installed on 15 March.

"The idea is to integrate Latin America and insert it into the world to obtain more markets, to import technology, and to attract capital." In this way, now that "the idea of liberty is becoming international," Latin America "will not be left behind."

Vargas Llosa, who repeatedly mentioned the example of the current success of Spain, emphasized the "coincidence and affinity" of his ideology with Collor's. Vargas Llosa said: "There are ideas of [words indistinct] democracies in Latin America." He added that, at the same time, a socialized economic model "is becoming popular." This modernization, pointed out the author of "The War at the End of the World," aims to ensure economic development and social justice. He said that his talk with Collor was "preliminary, because I must first win the elections."

During the lunch the two politicians discussed bilateral issues such as the construction of a highway linking Brazil's Acre State to the Peruvian coast and the development of the common border region.

Regarding the situation in Peru, Vargas Llosa said the first thing that needs to be done to overcome the current crisis is to implement "very drastic policies" to fight inflation, which is "a cancer that is corroding the economy."

Vargas Llosa said that the foreign debt must be realistically renegotiated because, to be able to pay it, the country must grow and demonstrate that Peru and the other Latin American countries are making efforts to "modernize their economy." He insisted on the need to privatize some 200 state-owned companies. Asked how he would privatize them, he said that no monopolies should be allowed to exist.

He defended the need to create a "people's ownership system" [accionariado popular] through which the workers will receive special incentives to allow them to purchase shares of the companies for which they work.

He asserted that the Armed Forces must be modernized to become "nonpolitical, more professionalized, and better integrated [words indistinct] in civilian society." He commented on the role of the military in Peru's constitutional life in light of the terrorism in the country and said that he is ready to negotiate with the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas.

"However, at least two parties are required for negotiations," he said, pointing out that the guerrillas have never shown any interest in negotiating. Very much the opposite, he said: "They murder candidates."

The author of "Conversations in the Cathedral" was skeptical about the results of the antidrug summit held on 15 February in Cartagena de Indias, but admitted that [words indistinct] regarding the interdependence between drug producers and consumers. He said it is necessary to help the peasants and to create infrastructures that will allow them to replace coca production with agricultural products.

One hectare planted with coca yields a net profit of $4,000, while in Chile a hectare of land producing agro-industrial products yields profits ranging from $8,000 to $10,000, he told EFE.

Asked whether he would implement a social-democratic political system in Peru, he said the issue had to be discussed in detail. He added, however, that this system would present "no difficulty if it were similar to the system implemented in Spain by Felipe Gonzalez."

Bank Workers Return; Indefinite Strike Possible

PY2102165090 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Banking activity returned to normal after a 24-hour strike by the Bank Employees Federation. The possibility of an indefinite strike, however, cannot be ruled out because the employees' federation and the banks' association have not reached an agreement. Here is what bank employees leader (Marco Diaz) has to say on the subject:

[Begin recording] [(Diaz)] The situation has returned to normal. All banks are operating normally nationwide. Today we will meet with Economy and Finance Ministry officials and hold discussions at the Popular Bank. We will probably also meet with Labor Ministry officials to demand an increase of at least two million intis to partially compensate for the increased cost of living.

[Reporter] What will the Employees Federation do then?

[(Diaz)] If the Federation and its grass-roots demands are not met we will convene a national delegates assembly to decree an indefinite general strike. [end recording]

Guyana

PRC Official To Visit, Hold Discussions

FL1602231590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2209 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 16, CANA—China's Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu will pay an official visit to Guyana from Sunday to Wednesday [18- 21 February], the Guyana Government announced on Friday [16 February]. During his stay here, Liu Huaqiu will hold discussions with Guyana's Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashleigh Jackson, Agriculture Minister Dr. Patrick McKenzie, officials of the Department of International Economic Co-operation (DIEC) and other government agencies. He will also pay courtesy calls on President Desmond Hoyte, Prime Minister Hamilton Green, and Vice President Viola Burnham.

The government's announcement said the talks are expected to cover a wide range of issues including the current state of bilateral relations between Guyana and the People's Republic of China and ways of enhancing them." [quotation marks as received] The vice minister will also visit a number of economic projects which were established here with Chinese assistance and some of which, informed sources say are likely to be converted into joint venture projects with Chinese participation. The projects include the Sanata Textile Mill, the Bel Lu Claybrick Factory, and the Mon Repos Duck Farm.

PRC Loan Accord Expected

FL2002234490 Bridgetown CANA in English 2258 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 20, CANA—Guyana and China are expected to sign an agreement Wednesday [21 February] under which China will provide Guyana with two interest-free loans, informed sources told CANA Tuesday [20 February]. The agreements are expected to be signed shortly before visiting Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Liu Huaqiu leaves here at the end of a four-day official visit.

In a brief interview with CANA Monday night [19 February], Huaqiu said that the documents are still being discussed and that the details will be announced Wednesday. He gave no details of the assistance likely to be extended to Guyana. He explained, however, that both countries attach great importance to cooperation in agriculture and industry.

Reliable sources close to the talks between Guyanese officials and the visiting Chinese delegation told CANA the interest-free loans are likely to be for a total of about six million U.S. dollars.

Huaqiu also disclosed that a Guyana delegation is likely to visit Beijing, China, shortly for a meeting of the China-Guyana Joint Commission during which joint venture projects, "maybe in agriculture, maybe in other fields useful and beneficial to our two countries" are

likely to be discussed. He said that over the years, "Guyana and China have enjoyed very good relations" and "the areas of cooperation have enlarged step by step mainly in agriculture, textiles and other light industry."

Hoyte Opposes Lifting South African Sanctions

FL2102162390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1552 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 21, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte has come out strongly against the removal of sanctions against South Africa, saying that "to lift them now would be an act of folly and a blow to the liberation struggle" in the racially-divided country. He told a big rally held by his ruling People's National Congress (PNC) to celebrate the release of freedom-fighter Nelson Mandela from jail after 27 years that "talk about lifting sanctions against the apartheid regime" is a source of concern to all who wish to see the demise of apartheid.

"As Mandela himself observed, the conditions for armed struggle still exist in South Africa," Hoyte said, adding that the Pretoria regime is armed and dangerous. He added: "In these circumstances, I need to affirm that the government and people of Guyana are totally opposed to the lifting of sanctions against the apartheid regime. Such an action is totally unjustified at this time for it is sanctions that are forcing the Pretoria regime to make concessions and inch reluctantly towards the bargaining table."

He named no one or any country but said "those who are, for whatever reason, contemplating the lifting of sanctions, should seriously consider the implications of their actions." He said Mandela's release has set in train an important process in the evolution of political events in South Africa and at "this decisive phase of the liberation struggle, it can help powerfully to create a climate in which genuine dialogue and negotiation can proceed."

South African President F.W. de Klerk "has little choice but to negotiate (for) the alternative is to be swept away by the surging tide of freedom," Hoyte asserted. For the first time in the history of South Africa, he added, there is real prospect of a democratic, non-racial, and free society emerging.

But he continued: "We realise that reaching that goal, though now it is inevitable, will not be easy for the apartheid regime, though much weakened by recent events, still has prepotency of military power (and) we can never tell how the regime might react in the final chapter of this drama."

He said Guyana was, nevertheless, optimistic that the society envisaged in the freedom charter that was adopted by the African National Congress and other groups in 1955 and which he called "a far-sighted document," will become a reality in South Africa. He continued: "It is only a matter of time. But when it does take place, it will be a great and historic day for the frontline states which suffered so long and suffered so grievously from military aggression, economic sabotage, and psychological destabilisation by the apartheid regime.

"It will equally be a great and historic day for all of us in Guyana and indeed, for all people of goodwill throughout the world." He said Guyana believes that a free South Africa will be pivotal to the economic and other progress of the Southern Africa region.

PNC Says Bombs Attempt To 'Distract' Populace

FL1902171190 Bridgetown CANA in English 2033 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 18, CANA—Guyana's ruling People's National Congress (PNC) says that within recent weeks there has been an increase in efforts to distract Guyanese "from the important task of getting on with the economic recovery programme."

"We have had, among other things, attempts to scare citizens and undermine public morale by planting crude pipe bombs," NEW NATION, official organ of the PNC said in an editorial on Sunday [18 February]. Its mention of bombs was a reference to the discovery of seven home-made bombs at government installations in the city earlier this month. No group or organisation has so far claimed responsibility for planting the bombs.

NEW NATION said that fortunately, most of the bombs did not explode and that those which did, caused only minor injury or damage. The paper added: "We have had a spate of rumours and disinformation, the most ludicrous of which was that the pipe bombs were planted by the government.

"We have had reports in the TRINIDAD EXPRESS about a bogus organisation calling itself the International Solidarity for Democracy in Guyana which is following old tired lines of maligning this country. We are now hearing about another organisation, the World Union of Guyanese which is embarking on some unspecified agenda against this country. We have had ridiculous allegations that the human rights of two convicted murderers were violated when they were hanged in accordance with law.

"All of these are matters calculated to disrupt the normal flow of national life and hinder our efforts at economic recovery. The Guyanese people need to recognise these things for what they are, namely efforts to distract."

Blamed for Bombings by URP

FL2102005890 Bridgetown CANA in English 0008 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 20, CANA—Leader of the United Republican Party (URP), Robert Gangadeen, claims that the Ruling People's National Congress was responsible for planting a number of home-made pipe bombs in the city earlier this month. He also charged

that the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) was planning a military takeover in Guyana.

Seven bombs were planted in the city earlier this month but only two of them exploded before they were discovered and safely detonated by bomb experts. No one has claimed responsibility and no arrests have been made by the police.

Gangadeen, who leads the youngest of the country's eight political parties, told CANA he did not believe the PPP was behind the planting of the bombs but he has "reliable information" that the PPP "instead of gearing themselves for a political campaign and possibly contesting the 1990 elections, ... Are directing their efforts on a military campaign". The charge has been rejected by PPP officials. Asked to elaborate, he said there was not much more that he was prepared to say at this stage "because of the fact that my source is going to be identified".

Elections are constitutionally due here by March, next year.

Executive Chairman of Opposition Party Resigns

FL2102233590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2306 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 21, CANA—Executive Chairman of Guyana's opposition United Republican Party Vishnu Bandhu has quit, complaining of differences with party leader Robert Gangadeen. Bandhu told CANA Wednesday [21 February] he decided to quit the URP because of his disappointment with Gangadeen who he said has turned out to be a dictatorial leader who has been fooling the Guyanese people.

He listed a number of grouses he has with Gangadeen but contended that problems between himself and Gangadeen really started surfacing last year when, contrary to the views of the party's executive, Gangadeen held discussions with President Desmond Hoyte. He said that since that meeting, the URP leader seemed extremely happy and "different", leading some members of the executive, including himself, to conclude that he—"not the URP"—must have agreed on some accommodation—"some deal for personal gain"—with Hoyte. He said he believes that the policies of the party which espouses capitalism for Guyana are right.

"But I don't feel that he (Gangadeen) is the right leader. He has been misleading people throughout the country," he said.

He alleged that because of Gangadeen's "dictatorial leadership," people have been losing confidence in the URP.

Human Rights Group Sends Letter to Government

FL2002161790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1454 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 20, CANA—Caribbean Rights, the human rights watchdog, has told the Guyana Government it is deeply disturbed by a "campaign" against a group of human rights activists in the country. The organisation cited various cases of attacks on the group of human rights activists, among them lawyers, priests, and the executive officer of the Guyana Human Rights Association, Michael McCormack, who is also a founding official of Caribbean Rights.

In a letter to Guyana's attorney-general, Keith Massiah, released to the region's media Tuesday [20 February], the regional human rights network referred to a bombing campaign in Georgetown for which no-one has claimed responsibility and also accused the government of promoting intimidation and racial hatred. It said: "In the present situation in Guyana, we wish to alert the government that the international human rights community is monitoring events in Guyana very closely and will reject out of hand any attempt to link the (recent) bombing campaign with the persons subjected to the campaign of intimidation and racial hatred being promoted by your government."

The letter, signed by Caribbean Rights' chairman, Jean-Claude Bajeux, the Haitian human rights activist, has also been sent to the United Nations Commission for Human Rights, the Caribbean Community Secretariat, the World Council of Churches, Americas Watch, and Amnesty International.